Trade and Industry

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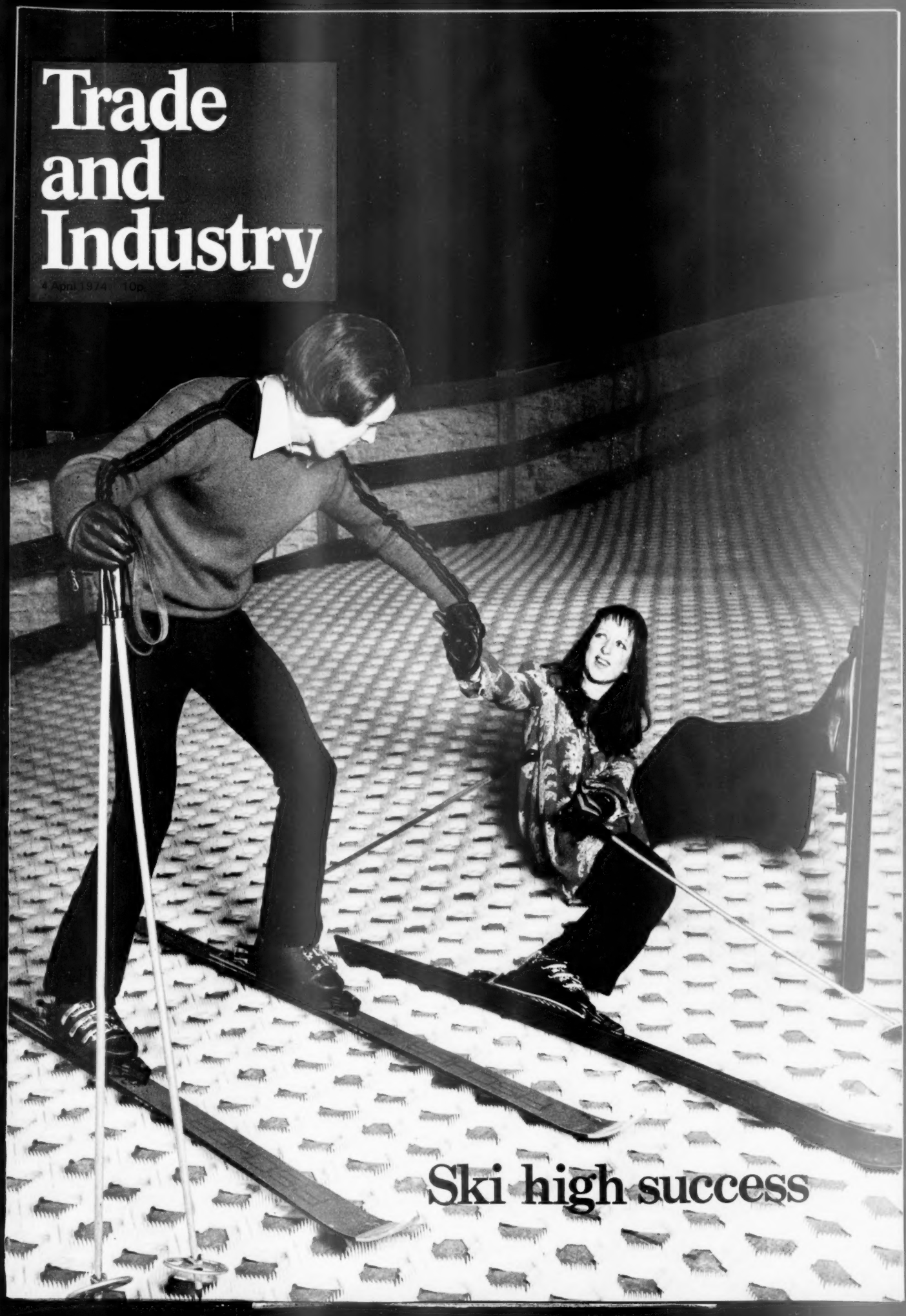

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Trade and Industry

4 April 1974

Ski high success . . . for the Sorbo-Ski artificial ski slope, winner of a Design Council 1974 award for consumer goods (see page 9). The 'plastics snow', manufactured from ICI's Alkathene, is made into a ski slope from small interlocking modules. The slope can be used in or out of doors and is easily stored in sections. Artificial ski slopes made by British firms are winning many export orders – even in countries with plenty of non-artificial snow.

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Britain

Main Budget points affecting industry and commerce

Overall the effects of the 26 March Budget on demand should be broadly neutral. On purely domestic grounds mild reflation might have been called for. But our present external situation precludes this. More room must be made for exports. A major objective therefore has been to ensure that demand rises at a rate which can comfortably be met by increasing output.

Public sector borrowing will be greatly reduced – by some £1,500 million in 1974-75 compared with 1973-74. The **Regional Employment Premium** is to be kept to help industry in the development areas. But probably the best investment incentive for a businessman is the assurance that output is to be maintained at a high and sustainable level.

Economic outlook 1974

The table opposite gives the Government's forecasts of expenditure, gdp and imports in detail. The economic outlook at present is far from certain, however. Because of the three-day week production in this year as a whole is likely to be less than in 1973. But after falling 5 per cent in the first half of this year compared with the second half of 1973, gdp should by the end of the year be 2½ per cent higher than a year earlier. In real terms private fixed investment may be a little lower than last year; consumers' expenditure should be a little higher in the second half of this year than it was in the second half of 1973; growth of world trade in manufactures which had begun to slow down towards the end of last year may again be quite slow. However British goods are strongly competitive overseas and this should ensure their continued expansion with manufactures leading the field.

Balance of payments

Another factor is the increase in oil prices which is expected to add £2,000 million to our import bill this year. We cannot hope to eliminate all this at once and must therefore borrow overseas. A 10-year **loan of 2½ billion dollars** has been arranged by the clearing banks – probably the largest ever raised in international capital markets. **Swap facilities** between the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York are raised from 2 to 3 billion dollars. **Exchange control restrictions** have been tightened so that rules on investment in the EEC and the Sterling Area are now the same as those at present applying elsewhere. In the longer term North Sea oil will improve our balance of payments substantially.

The burden redistributed

In order to establish a sense of national unity the Budget contains deliberate and carefully considered measures of re-distribute fiscal burdens to help as far as possible those least able to bear them. The overall increase in taxation amounts to nearly £1,400 million. On the other hand increases in pensions and other social benefits come to some £1,240 million a year plus a further £500 million for food subsidies. Food subsidies will lower the retail price index by some 1½ per cent and the rise in food prices by roughly 6 per cent.

The main points from the Budget are:

Company taxes

* **Corporation tax** rate to be 52 per cent for 1973–74
* Corporation tax payments to be accelerated: **advance corporation tax** to be accompanied by an additional payment of half that sum.
* **Small companies** to pay corporation tax at 42 per cent (but 40 per cent remains for building societies, co-operative societies and housing associations).
* **Capital gains tax** for companies to be charged at an effective rate of 30 per cent for 1973/74.
* Proposals for dealing with artificial losses of **oil companies** as well as the computation of their profits for tax purposes will be introduced later.

Indirect taxes

* VAT zero rate for essential **aids for the disabled** and certain **protective clothing.**
* VAT at 10 per cent from 1 April to cover **petrol** and other **road fuels; ice-cream; soft drinks;** and similar **confectionery.**
* **Spirits** up 20p a standard bottle.
* **Wine** up 10p a bottle on average.
* **Beer** up 1p a pint.
* **Tobacco** up 5p on a packet of 20 cigarettes.
* Increase in **off-course betting duty** from 6 per cent to 7½ per cent.
* **Pool betting duty** increased from 33⅓ per cent to 40 per cent.

Altogether the increases in indirect taxes will yield some £680 million in a full year.

Personal taxation

* Personal allowances and age exemption limits raised.
* Increase of 3p on basic and higher rates of income tax: higher rates now start at £4,500.
* Surcharge of 10 per cent on **investment incomes** between £1,000 and £2,000.
* Withdrawal of **general tax relief** for interest payments.
* Surcharge of 10 per cent on **Surtax** for 1972-73 confirmed.
* Taxation of 90 per cent of all **income earned overseas** irrespective of whether it is remitted.
* **Share option and incentive schemes** – benefits liable for income tax.
* **Children's investment incomes** to be aggregated with parents' income.

Closing tax loopholes

* **Guaranteed income bonds** to be taxed on profit element when they are 'cashed-in'.
* New arrangements to deal with early surrender of **qualifying life-assurance policies.**
* Abuses of **Friendly Societies'** tax exemption schemes to be ended.
* New measures against **the Lump;** to tighten up operation of existing tax deduction scheme in the **building industry.**

Wealth and capital

* Green paper in the summer on proposals for **annual wealth tax.**
* A new tax on lifetime **gifts** to be introduced in second Finance Bill.
* Confirmation of previous Government's measures for taxation of **land and property gains.** Further action to be considered.

Social benefits

* Retirement pensions increased and earnings rule relaxed.
* Unemployment, sickness and supplementary benefits up.
* **Employer's flat rate national insurance contributions** up 44p a week for each employee: employee's rate down 9p a week.

The outlook for economic activity

£ million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted

	Consumers' expenditure	Public expenditure on goods and services: Public authorities' consumption	Public expenditure on goods and services: Public investment	Public expenditure on goods and services: Total	Private fixed investment	Exports of goods and services	Investment in stocks	Total final expenditure	*Less* imports of goods and services	*Less* adjustment to factor cost	Gross domestic product at factor cost	GDP index 1970 = 100
1971	32,250	9,400	4,100	13,500	5,200	12,050	−200	62,800	11,400	7,900	43,500	101.3
1972	34,200	9,700	3,850	13,550	5,600	12,350	−250	65,450	12,500	8,450	44,500	103.7
1973	35,700	10,100	3,950	14,050	5,850	13,450	700	69,750	13,900	8,900	46,950	109.4
1974	35,600	10,150	3,800	13,950	5,800	13,850	300	69,500	14,300	8,750	46,450	108.2
1971 1st half	15,900	4,650	2,100	6,750	2,550	5,900	—	31,100	5,700	3,850	21,550	100.4
2nd half	16,350	4,750	2,000	6,750	2,650	6,150	−200	31,700	5,700	4,050	21,950	102.3
1972 1st half	16,850	4,800	2,000	6,800	2,750	6,200	−250	32,350	6,150	4,200	22,000	102.5
2nd half	17,350	4,900	1,850	6,750	2,850	6,150	—	33,100	6,350	4,250	22,500	104.8
1973 1st half	17,850	5,000	1,950	6,950	2,900	6,650	400	34,750	6,850	4,450	23,450	109.3
2nd half	17,850	5,100	2,000	7,100	2,950	6,800	300	35,000	7,050	4,450	23,500	109.5
1974 1st half	17,600	5,050	1,850	6,900	2,900	6,750	−450	33,700	7,000	4,350	22,350	104.1
2nd half	18,000	5,100	1,950	7,050	2,900	7,100	750	35,800	7,300	4,400	24,100	112.3
Percentage changes												
First half 1972 to first half 1973	6	3½	−2	2	6	7½		7½	11½	6½	6½(2)	
Second half 1972 to second half 1973	3	4	8	5	4	10½		5½	11	5	4½	
First half 1973 to first half 1974	−1½	1½	−5½	−½	−1	1		−3	2	−3	−4½(3)	
Second half 1973 to second half 1974	1	—	−4½	−1	−2	4½		2½	3½	−1	2½(3)	

(1) All figures are based on 'compromise' estimates of gross domestic product.
(2) Affected by fuel shortages which reduced output early in 1972.
(3) Affected by fuel shortages which reduced output early in 1974.

* £500 million more to be spent on subsidising **basic foods. Milk** price cut by 1p.

Housing

* Freeze on **rents** this year.
* £200 million provision for local authorities to increase **building programmes** and buy completed but unsold houses.
* **Tax relief** no longer available for mortgages on second houses: limited to £25,000 on main home.
* Existing duty of 1 per cent on conveyances and transfers to be doubled: but **exemption limit for houses** raised from £10,000 to £15,000.

Nationalised industry prices

* **Coal:** further increases in industrial coal prices this autumn. Domestic prices up £2.50 to £3 a ton in November.
* **Electricity:** Increases to domestic consumers averaging 30 per cent from August.
* **Gas:** no increase.
* **Steel:** up immediately by 25 per cent on average.
* **Rail:** Increases of about 12½ per cent in **passenger fares** and 15 per cent **freight charges** from the summer now before the Price Commission.
* **Post Office:** proposed 15-20 per cent increase in **telecommunications** charges; an extra 1p on first class **mail** and ½p on second class from the summer also to be put to Price Commission.

The effect of these increases will be to reduce Exchequer support for the nationalised industries to some £500 million in 1974-75 instead of a potential £1,400 million.

Other public expenditure

* Saving of £50 million on defence expenditure. Thorough review planned.
* **Concorde, Maplin** and UK contribution to **EEC Budget** also to be reviewed.

The Chancellor announced that he intends to introduce a second Budget later this year. This will deal with some of the fundamental changes judged to be necessary in the tax system and provide the opportunity for making any further adjustments necessary to influence demand and keep employment up.

Economic Trends

A monthly journal for those who want to follow the main trends of the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It brings together the main statistical series of employment, output, consumption, trade and finance, and each issue contains a special feature article on some aspect of the statistics.

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Home News

Gas Corporation relieved of obligation to supply

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, announced on 26 March that he had relieved the British Gas Corporation of any statutory obligation to provide large new or increased supplies of gas.

He said he was satisfied that unless he did this, security of supply to other gas users could be endangered.

But he emphasised that his authorisation would have no effect on the overwhelming majority of existing and potential gas consumers.

Mr. Varley was replying to a Parliamentary question by Mr. Harry Ewing (Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth), who asked if he expected the British Gas Corporation to be able to meet all demands for gas up to the end of 1974.

In a written reply Mr. Varley said: 'The gas industry has more than trebled its output in the seven years since North Sea gas first became available, and further growth is expected even before gas from the new fields comes in and the related developments of the transmission and distribution system are complete. Recent market trends arising directly from the world energy situation have however greatly increased the attractiveness of gas, particularly for commercial and industrial users, and I am satisfied that if at this stage the Corporation were obliged to meet demands for large new or additional supplies in full, this would endanger security of supply to other gas users, whether in particular districts or more generally.

'I have therefore given the Corporation authority, under Section 4 of the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973, to disregard or fall short in discharging any obligation under the Gas Act 1972 to give a new or increased supply of gas where this would result in the supply to the premises exceeding 25,000 therms per annum.

'The authorisation has no effect as regards the overwhelming majority of present and potential gas users whose needs are well below that figure and will certainly be met, or as regards existing rates of supply to any user. Nor does it prevent the Corporation from meeting new demands for larger quantities, where they judge this to be practicable without endangering supplies to other users.

'I shall keep under review the continuing need for the authorisation in the light of reports which I have directed the Corporation to make on their use of it.'

Notes

Section 27 of, and Schedule 4 to, the Gas Act 1972 oblige the British Gas Corporation (BGC) generally to meet requests to supply gas to premises within 25 yards of mains through which the Corporation is distributing gas. It imposes no limit on the amount of gas which the Corporation can be required to make available at all times.

Section 4 (1) of the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973 provides that: 'any person supplying or using a substance to which this Act applies may, if authorised to do so by the Secretary of State by any general or special authority granted for the purpose and while acting in accordance with that authority, disregard or fall short in discharging any obligation imposed by or under any enactment, or any contractual obligation, relating to or involving the supply or use of that substance'.

The BGC's ability to maintain safe supply is ultimately limited by the capacity of the transmission and distribution system to deliver gas continuously to consumers, and not simply by the amount of gas available from the North Sea.

The measure introduced by the Secretary of State concentrates on large new or additional supplies because it is not practical to control supply to a large number of small users.

Total consumption of 25,000 therms a year is about 70 times the average domestic consumer's consumption in 1972/73, and 25 times that of a fair-sized domestic gas central heating installation. Most of the Corporation's present industrial and commercial customers use less than this amount.

The authority does not affect:

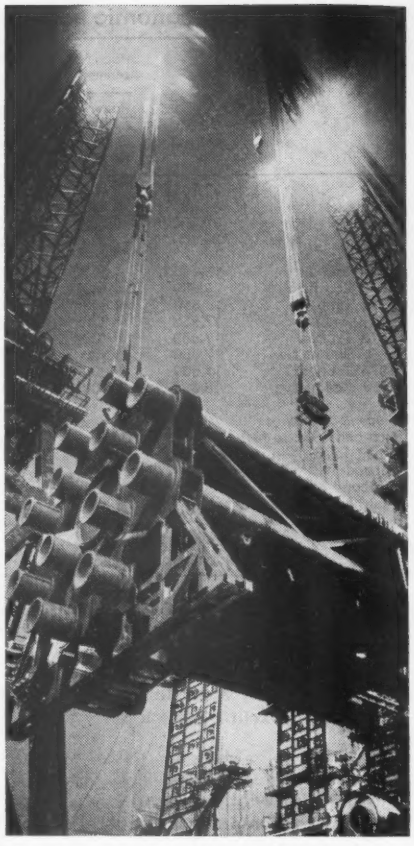
1 any statutory obligation to continue to give an existing supply whatever its size; or
2 contractual (as distinct from statutory) obligations.

Where the BGC can safely meet requests for supplies above 25,000 therms it will continue to do so. The Secretary of State's authority merely safeguards the Corporation from being forced by statutory obligations to go on accepting additional large loads which would endanger supplies to existing users.

The last year before North Sea gas began to be distributed was 1966/67. Between then and 1972/73 gas sales rose as follows:

	Million therms	
	1966/67	1972/73
Domestic	2,267	4,603 (103 per cent increase)
Industrial	908	4,530 (399 per cent increase)
Commercial and public administration	599	1,046 (81 per cent increase)
Total	3,754	10,179 (171 per cent increase)

A further rise is expected in 1973/74.



A 1,000-ton lower leg section of an oil production platform structure for BP's Forties field in the North Sea is lifted by two 800-ton capacity revolving cranes at Graythorp near Hartlepool on the Tees. The section is one of four legs for the massive £10 million steel structure which will rise 400 ft. from the seabed to support the decks. Two of the structures have been ordered from the Anglo-French joint venture Laing Pipelines Offshore.

Gavin Strang discusses UK requirements for North Sea oil production platforms

Dr. Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary, Department of Energy, on 28 March stressed the importance the Government attached to having oil production platforms for the North Sea built in Britain. He did so at a meeting at the Department of Energy with members of the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association, representing companies concerned with the exploration and production of North Sea gas and oil.

In opening the meeting Dr. Strang said: 'The Government is committed to doing all it can to assist the speedy flow of North Sea oil. The need to reduce our dependence on imported oil, for both economic and strategic reasons, has been clearly demonstrated in recent months. This need was most tellingly

underlined earlier this week when the trade figures for February disclosed our worst ever trade deficit – a deficit that was created largely by our increased oil import bill.

'I recognise that those engaged in the production of North Sea oil are doing all they can to ensure that oil comes ashore as quickly as possible. Theirs is a tremendously difficult task – one that must be carried out in a hostile, arduous environment. I pay tribute to their efforts.

'For my part, I am determined that the Government should do all that it can to ensure that the capability and the equipment necessary to achieve the early production of North Sea oil exists. To this end, our most urgent need is to ensure that the United Kingdom possesses the ability to produce, in the right numbers and at the correct time, platforms for the production of North Sea oil. But this can be determined only when we have established what the total requirement for production platforms is likely to be, both in the short term and in the foreseeable future. The answers can come only from the companies actively engaged in production.

'It is vitally important for a variety of reasons, not least of which are those concerning national economic considerations on the one hand and local economic infrastructure on the other, that the United Kingdom should have the capability to build its own platforms. But we must recognise that, because of the scale of operations involved, the creation of this capability will very often conflict with environmental interests. Here are the makings of a very real problem – how should Government seek to reconcile the conflicting requirements to safeguard our economy, and to safeguard the environment?

'Whatever the outcome of the Drumbuie inquiry, I am certain that whenever a site has to be made available to platform constructors, stringent safeguards for the proper use and restoration of that land must be written in to any agreement reached. This, of course, is a matter for the construction companies and I hope to discuss this with them very soon.'

Roger Stott appointed Mr. Varley's PPS

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, has appointed Mr. Roger Stott (MP for Lancashire, Westhoughton) to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Small new generating stations may go ahead

Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, has authorised consent to be given to the Central Electricity Generating Board to construct small gas turbine generating stations at Wimbledon and Newton Abbot.

The station to be built at Durnsford Road, Wimbledon, will have a capacity of 300 MW. At Newton Abbot the new station, with a capacity of 150 MW, will be built on the site of the existing generating station which is to be demolished.

Both projects have been approved by the local planning authority. No objections were received from the public when the proposed developments were advertised. Construction of both stations is unlikely to start before the middle of next year: before it does, further approval will have to be sought for the expenditure, though preparatory work may begin in advance of this.

Alex Eadie speaks of Government's approach to energy problems

The change which increases in the price of oil have made to the British economy was emphasised on 27 March by Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Department of Energy.

Speaking at the annual meeting of chairmen of Electricity Consultative Councils, he said: 'I doubt whether many people have yet realised the size of the change which has taken place or of the very serious economic problems to which it is giving rise.

'But what is clear is that all forms of energy are going to be very dear, compared with what they were.

'They may even be scarce, because until North Sea oil starts flowing we cannot regard our oil supplies as secure.

'Moreover, I think recent events are beginning to bring home to us the need, in the interests of our children and grandchildren, not to squander fossil fuels with the gay abandon of the past – or even of the present.

'For all these reasons my mind is turning very much these days to ways of conserving fuels and energy – to how we can cut out waste and increase economy and efficiency in their use; to how we can actually conserve long-term the supplies of finite forms of energy like fossil fuels; and to how we can develop new and, if possible, inexhaustible forms of energy.

'I do not pretend that we are at anything but an early stage in our thinking. But I felt it important that I should give you a 'feel' of the Government's approach.

'I think we have got to look at all forms of energy – and not just electricity – in a new light.'

Mr. Eadie has special responsibility in the Department of Energy for energy conservation. He was speaking against the background of the Budget. The Budget, he said 'demonstrates the underlying purpose, to try to reconcile the twin objectives of bringing some order to the finances of the nationalised fuel industries in a completely new energy situation, while at the same time doing our utmost to contain the pace of inflation.'

Lord Beswick, Minister of State, Department of Industry (left), with Alan Clough, president of the British Textile Confederation. Lord Beswick, who has responsibility for the textiles industry, spoke at a lunch after the Confederation's second annual meeting in London last week.

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Industrial and commercial property

Price Commission acts on food wholesalers' margins

On 1 February, the Price Commission announced that it had decided to apply the procedure provided by paragraph 80 of the Price Code to food distributors, ie retailers and wholesalers of food.

After a process of consultation with representative bodies, the Commission announced on 22 March that it had decided to confirm that the permitted gross margin of food retailers should be reduced by 10 per cent, but that the reduction would be limited so as not to reduce the net profit margin below 1½ per cent for the enterprise.

The Commission has now decided that a reduction of the same extent (10 per cent) should apply to the permitted gross margins of food wholesalers. As in the case of food retailers, the reduction in gross percentage margins will be limited so as not to reduce the net profit margin below 1½ per cent for the enterprise. The Commission considers that this is an adequate safeguard for all food wholesalers, including those special types of wholesalers whose pricing practices are based on low net margins. The reduction is effective from 1 April 1974.

Notes

Paragraph 80 of the Code provides that, when in the judgment of the Price Commission the costs of goods supplied to wholesalers or retailers rise substantially, the Commission may modify existing gross percentage margins where it considers that the application of current margins would disproportionately increase the net profit margins on these goods. The purpose of this provision is to prevent undue rises in prices as a result of applying existing gross profit margins to goods which have risen substantially in price.

The decision announced, like the earlier decision affecting food retailers, has been taken by the Price Commission in its exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 80 of the present Code.

In referring to special types of wholesalers, the Commission has particularly in mind specialist distributors dealing with meat, greengrocery and fish; the majority of food wholesalers handle general food supplies (either grocery or grocery and provisions).

Consent to transfer of 'Evening Citizen'

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, gave her consent, on 27 March, under Section 58(3) of the Fair Trading Act 1973, to the transfer of the *Evening Citizen* by Beaverbrook Newspapers Ltd. to Scottish and Universal Investments Ltd.

Proposed merger between Boots and House of Fraser

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has extended by two months the period within which the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are required to make their report on the proposed merger of the Boots Co. Ltd. and House of Fraser Ltd. This follows representations from the Commission that there are special reasons why the report cannot be made by 27 April 1974, as specified in the reference.

The reference was made on 27 November 1973, under Sections 69(2) and 75 of the Fair Trading Act 1973. It required the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report within a period of five months.

Under Section 70(2) of the Act the Secretary of State may allow one further period of not more than three months on any one reference on representations from the Commission that there are special reasons why the report cannot be made within the period specified in the reference.

The period for the making of the report is being extended because work on the inquiry was delayed at the outset because of short-working resulting from the lighting restrictions and because a change in the attitude of the Boots Co. Ltd. to the merger made it necessary for the Commission to re-adjust their timetable to enable them to consider additional issues in the latter stage of the inquiry.

Clearance of merger proposals

On the information at present before her, Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

London Brick Co. Ltd./Banbury Buildings Holdings Ltd.

Jobs boost for mid-Wales

Two new industrial developments in mid-Wales were announced on 21 March by John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales.

He said that the vacant No. 2 Development Commission advance factory at Rhayader has been allocated to Silent Channel Products Ltd., of Huntingdon, who manufacture components for the motor industry. Twenty jobs for men and women should be created in the first year of operation and 40 jobs by the end of 1976.

The company already has a factory at Maesteg, but there will be no reduction of the labour force there as a result of the move to Rhayader. Occupation of the factory at Rhayader will take place shortly.

Mr. Morris also announced that a new 10,000 sq. ft. advance factory will be built at Aberystwyth with Development Commission finance.

More jobs for Cwmbran

Just Rubber Components Ltd. of Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, have recently occupied a 5,000 sq. ft. factory erected by the Cwmbran Development Corporation on their Somerset Road Industrial Estate.

'Fly-drive' services approved

The Civil Aviation Authority has authorised Court Line Aviation and Laker Airways to carry 'fly-drive' passengers on charter flights to Spain and Italy respectively. This 'fly-drive' facility covers the flight plus the hiring of a car at the point of destination, but not accommodation.

As an experiment Court Line will be permitted to provide this service to Alicante and Malaga; Laker Airways to Pisa and Naples. The CAA rejected applications from Court Line, Laker Airways and British Airtours to provide the same facility on charter flights to other countries.

The Authority considers that it would be sensible to test the demand for 'fly-drive' services by permitting them on routes where there would be minimal damage to scheduled services. The Authority will closely examine the market's reaction and the effects on competitors.

The following conditions will apply:

1 Minimum number to be two persons per car (two children counting as one adult);
2 Minimum stay of seven days;
3 Car to be hired for the whole holiday and evidence of the hiring to be retained by the airlines.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
21 March 1974		
1,090,653	Potter Instrument Co. Inc.	Digital plotter
1,142,509	Gevaert-Agfa N.V.	Improved electrographic material
1,150,553	Gevaert-Agfa N.V.	A method of producing photographic images
1,210,814	Ivor John Taylor	Manually operable vacuum valves
1,210,815	Ivor John Taylor	Manually operable vacuum valves
1,244,185	Laboratoires F Bouchard	Improvements in phenylacylalicylic derivatives
1,269,872	International Standard Electric Corporation	Scanning circuits in a central telecommunication exchange

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above Patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

CAA report on air transport in the Highlands and Islands

The Civil Aviation Authority's recommendations to the Government on the economics and organisation of air services, aerodromes and air navigation services in the Scottish Highlands and Islands are published in a report, 'Air Transport in the Scottish Highlands and Islands',* published on 28 March.

The Authority acknowledges that these air transport services make an important contribution to the social and economic well being of the Scottish Highlands and Islands. As far as possible they should be governed by normal commercial criteria, but since in general they cannot be provided profitably some at least of the services and the greater part of the infrastructure must be supported from public funds. The Authority recommends that such subsidies should be direct and explicit, and should be given by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Air services

The Authority accepts that the existing services between Glasgow, Barra, Campbeltown, Islay and Tiree cannot be operated profitably. They should therefore be subsidised on the basis of competitive tender forthwith.

Other services may also need to be subsidised, but the existing operators should be given at least three and preferably five years of initial security of tenure during which time the Secretary of State might determine the required future pattern of air services. Thereafter competitive tenders might be sought and the choice of operator on subsidised routes reviewed every five years.

All new services which might attract subsidy should be put up to competitive tender from the start.

Scottish Airways and Loganair

The Authority has considered whether there should be more than one airline serving the Highlands and Islands or whether Scottish Airways and Loganair should be brought together in a single operating company. It makes no firm recommendation on this point at this time, since much will depend on the attitudes of the airlines concerned and on Government policy on the roles of the public and private sectors. Whether or not Scottish Airways combine with Loganair, it should operate as a separate accounting unit so that its costs and revenues can be clearly isolated from the rest of the British Airways Group. This, the Authority says, will be essential if estimates on the need for subsidy are not to be falsified by concealed cross-subsidisation.

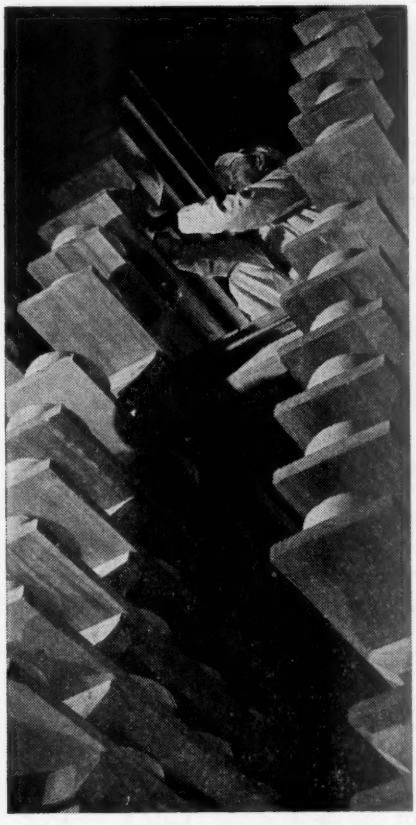
Aerodrome and air navigation services

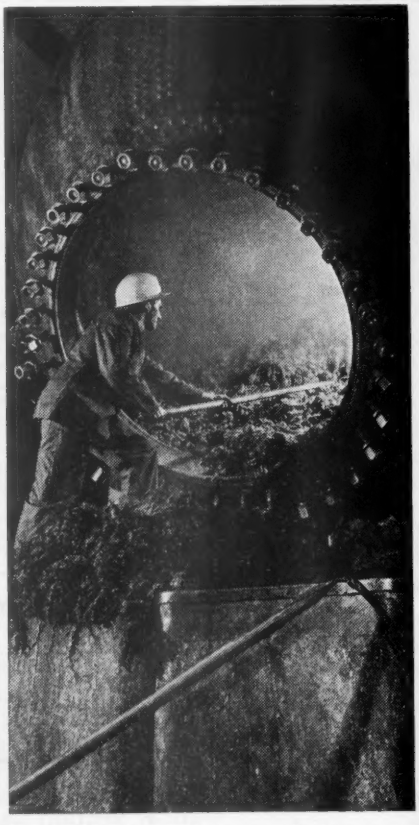
The Authority recommends that operating subsidies for aerodrome and local air navigation services, like those for air services, should be given directly by the Secretary of State for Scotland. Funds for capital expenditure should be provided by grant rather than by loan. The level of user charges for aerodrome and local navigation services should depend on the extent of subsidy determined by the Secretary of State.

The Authority does not recommend any change in the management of the smaller aerodromes, airfields and airstrips. As far as its own aerodromes are concerned, these at present enjoy the economic advantage of close integration of aerodrome and navigation services, including en route services. No significant economic advantage would result from transferring them to a different owner or manager. If it is agreed that they should remain with the Authority, then it is proposed to manage them as a separate organisation and accounting unit (preferably as a wholly-owned subsidiary company registered in Scotland) with close links with the Scottish Office. Such an arrangement would allow a greater degree of local involvement, and enable the financial subsidisation to be treated separately from the Authority's other financial arrangements in which it is required to break even by 1977/8.

The Authority's report also includes the detailed findings of its study group which set out various options from which the Authority's final recommendations were drawn.

* Civil Aviation Authority, Air Transport in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, price £1.50. Available by post from CAA Printing and Publication Services, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Glos. or by personal callers at Central Library, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London, WC2 or John Menzies Bookshop, 107 Princes Street, Edinburgh.





Stacking cheese in maturing room (left). One of the photographs which has won for Maurice Broomfield the 'Industrial Photographer of the year' award in the competition run by the 'Financial Times'. The photograph was commissioned by the Milk Marketing Board.
Rag and manilla being removed from a 'digester' which has prepared it for being made into paper pulp. The photograph (right), taken at the Tullis Russell paper mills at Glenrothes, Scotland, won for Don Fraser the winning award for a black and white photograph for general use in the annual industrial photographic competition run by the 'Financial Times'. Photographers at the DTI's Warren Spring Laboratory were winners in two sections of the competition

CAA to handle ICAO publications

The UK agency for the sale of International Civil Aviation Organization publications is to be transferred from HMSO to the Civil Aviation Authority. This is expected to become effective in June 1974 by which time a complete new stock of publications will have been shipped from ICAO headquarters in Montreal. Meanwhile, during April and May, urgent orders should be sent direct to ICAO headquarters in Montreal addressed to: International Civil Aviation Organization (Attention: Distribution Officer), International Aviation Building, 1080 University Street, Montreal 101, Quebec, Canada.

When ordering ICAO publications direct from Montreal, it is advisable to: specify the document number of the publication and also the language desired; give instructions on the method of despatch (the quoted cost of ICAO publications includes despatch by surface mail as printed matter only); and send cash with order in US dollars.

From June orders for ICAO publications should be addressed to: Civil Aviation Authority, Printing and Publication Services, Greville House, 37 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 2BN.

The Register of Restrictive Trading Agreements (Restrictive Trade Practices Acts 1956 to 1973)

Additions and amendments to the Register

A list of additions and amendments made to the alphabetical index to the register between 1 January and 31 March 1974 is given below; the amendments are shown in italics.

'D' and 'F' Agreements

Also given below, headed 'D' and 'F' Agreements, is a schedule which brings up to date at 31 March 1974 particulars of those agreements which have been determined or varied.

A full explanation of the basis on which these two lists have been compiled, and the meaning of the symbols used, was published in *Trade and Industry* (page 22) on 3 January 1974.

Agreements referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

On 10 April 1959 the *Board of Trade Journal* (page 859) published a list of all agreements in respect of which Notices of Reference (constituting formal commencement of proceedings before the Restrictive Practices Court) had been issued except those which had already been dealt with by the Court. Subsequent additions have been published at approximately quarterly intervals. Anyone who may be in a position to assist the Court with evidence from his own experience of results of any of these agreements which he thinks affect the public interest, is asked to communicate as early as possible with the Treasury Solicitor's, 3 Central Buildings, Mathew Parker Street, London SW1H 9NN. The agreements shown in square brackets have been abandoned after the issue of a Notice of Reference.

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection may, on the representation of the Director General of Fair Trading give directions under Section 9(2) of the Act of 1968 discharging him, during their continuance in force, from the duty of referring an agreement to the Restrictive Practices Court. A further list is given below, headed as this paragraph is headed, of agreements in respect of which directions under that subsection have been given and are in force. The agreements are indicated in the Index to the Register by the symbol 'B'. Although these agreements are already included in the above-mentioned list of additions and amendments, they are shown separately under this heading for the benefit of readers.

Inspection of the Register

The Register may be inspected between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. on any weekday, except Saturday and certain holidays, at any of the following addresses.

Office of Fair Trading
Chancery House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SP
9 Hope Street, Edinburgh EH2 4EL
64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX

The fee for inspecting the Register is 50p per day, but if less than five agreements are inspected the fee is 10p for each agreement.

Indexes to the Register, one as published in *Trade and Industry* and one in which commodities are grouped by classes, may be inspected at these addresses free of charge.

Additions and amendments to the register

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity			
	A			
789	Agricultural machinery	C 7/70	*add*	F 1/74
	B			
2750	Bacon		*add*	D 12/73
3549	Bedding, mattresses			D 10/72
962	Bread, confectionery, flour	C 2/60	delete	F 2/60
181	Building materials		*add*	F 1/74
	C			
3794	Cock spares, metal fittings, level indicator spares valve spares			
3210	Consumer goods		*add*	D 1/72
	D			
3777	Domestic solid fuel		add	F 11/73
	E			
2435	Excavating etc machinery, tools, portable, electric hand, scaffolding etc		*add*	F 1/74
	F			
3765	Fish		*add*	E 12/73
3766	Fish		*add*	E 12/73
3767	Fish		*add*	E 12/73
3803	Fish			
3804	Fish			
	G			
3689	Grain, pulses and feeding stuffs			
2940	Gramophones, gramophone records, musical instruments, pianos and player pianos, printed music, radio sets and accessories		*add*	E 2/74
	M			
2510	Malt			B 11/70
3259	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products		*add*	F 2/74
3792	Metallic sculpture and sculptural pictures			
	P			
3154	Pitch		*add*	D 5/74
3802	Plastic baths			
42	Potatoes Glasgow		*add*	D 9/70
150	Potatoes Edinburgh		*add*	D 9/70
3797	Power station cabling contracts			
1418	Pumping equipment			
	R			
1518	Rose trees		*add*	F 2/74
	S			
3798	Seeds (mushrooms spawn)			
	W			
3801	Woollen and worsted yarn			
3143	Wool tops		*add*	D 12/72
3805	Wool tops (Bradford and other areas)			D 12/72
3806	Wool tops			D 12/72

'D' and 'F' Agreements

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity	Area	D or F	Date
42	Potatoes	Glasgow	D	September 1970
150	Potatoes	Edinburgh	D	September 1970
181	Building materials		F	January 1974
789	Agricultural machinery		F	January 1974
1518	Rose trees		F	February 1974
2435	Excavating etc machinery, tools portable, electric, hand, scaffolding etc		F	January 1974
2750	Bacon		D	December 1973
3143	Wool tops		D	December 1972
3154	Pitch		D	May 1974
3210	Consumer goods		D	January 1972
3259	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products		F	February 1974
3549	Bedding, mattresses		D	October 1972
3777	Domestic solid fuel		F	November 1973
3806	Wool tops		D	December 1972

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

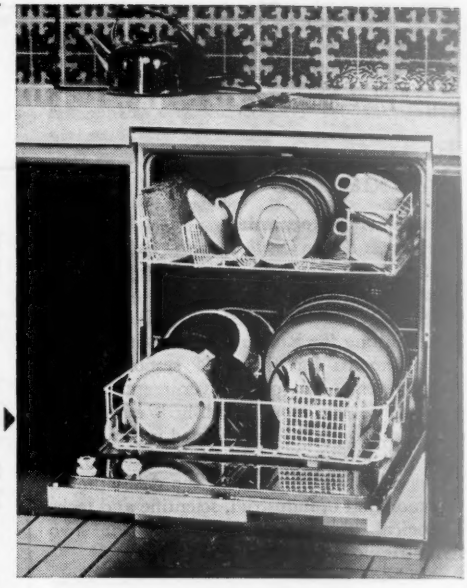
Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity
2510	Malt

The following has been removed from the Register under Section 6A of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1956 (as inserted by Section 98 of the Fair Trading Act 1973)

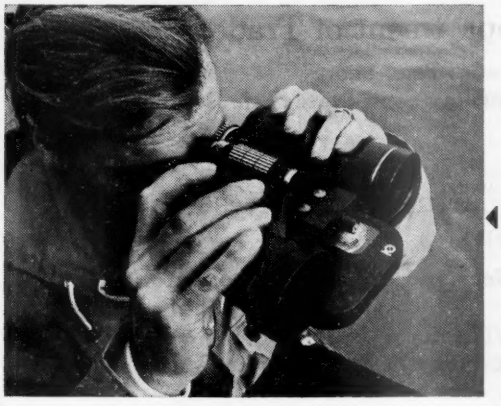
Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity
3212	Consumer goods

The Top Ten in design

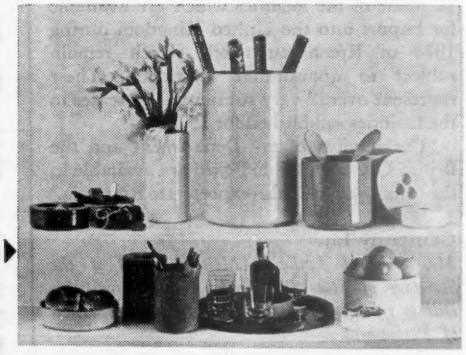
Ten products have gained this year's Design Council Awards for consumer goods. In selecting the products for the awards a panel, chaired by design consultant David Carter, took into consideration performance, construction, safety and ergonomic aspects, as well as its aesthetic appearance. Seven of the products are illustrated here. The three other products to be chosen were: ranges of wool coverings designed by Jean-Pierre Teroy and manufactured by Jean-Pierre Teroy (Decor) Ltd., Bradford; ACI pre-amplifier and API power amplifier hi-fi units manufactured by Lecson Audio Ltd., St. Ives, and designed by Robert Stuart, of Lecson Audio, and Allen Boothroyd, of Hulme Chadwick and Partners; and a selection of hand-decorated, glazed ceramic floor and wall tiles designed by Tarquin Cole and made by Rye Tiles of Rye.



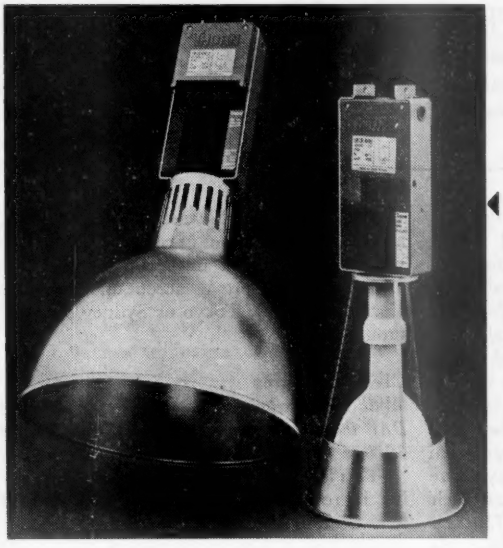
Designed specifically with the European market in mind, the Super-jet 12 is one of a pair of new domestic dishwashers from Hoover Ltd., Merthyr Tydfil. They were designed by Paul L. Moss and Cedric W. Mastin.



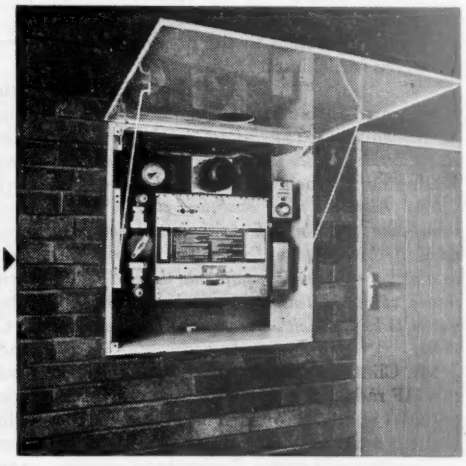
Designed for the manufacturers, Offshore Instruments Ltd., London, by Michael Dupree in conjunction with the company's own development team, the Bino-compass converts a pair of 50 mm. marine binoculars into an extremely accurate long-range bearing compass.



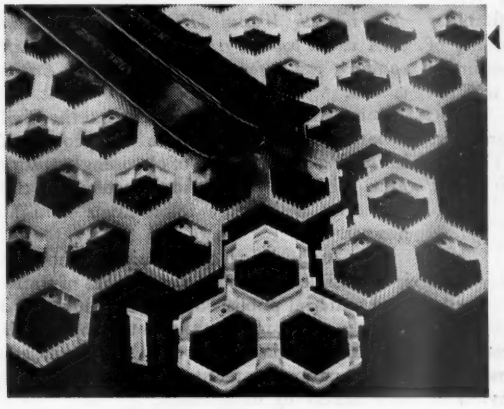
There are 21 items in the Input range of containers in heavy-duty ABS plastics. The input range has been designed by Conran Associates, London, and is made by Crayonne Ltd., of Sunbury-on-Thames.



Thorn Lighting Ltd., London, has provided its Hipak range of light fittings for use in tall industrial buildings.
The range was designed by Colin Dipper and Thorn's engineering design team.



Made and designed by Agaheat Appliances, Glynwed Domestic and Heating Appliances Ltd., of Ketley, Shropshire, the Aga A50 gas boiler represents the ultimate in space saving, since it can be mounted in the thickness of an 11-in. cavity wall.



Sorbo-Ski is an artificial skiing surface made up of trihexagonal interlocking modules.
It is made of a special formulation of ICI's Alkathene EVA copolymer material. It is manufactured by Summer Ski Ltd., Newhaven, Sussex, and was designed by Capt. John Blandford Jupe and Roy L. Manns.

The 700 range of steel seating units and tables, made by Abacus Municipal Ltd., Sutton-in-Ashfield. The designer was David Mellor.

Parliament

Monday, 25 March

Trade with Romania

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) inquired what measures were being taken to stimulate trade with Romania.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'My Department is consulting the Romanian authorities about arrangements for the 1974 session of the Anglo-Romanian Joint Governmental Commission which was established under the Co-operation Agreement signed in June 1972 as the appropriate body for reviewing, supervising and promoting the development of trade and of industrial, scientific and technological co-operation between the two countries.

'In addition, an announcement will shortly be made of the facilities which are available for import into the United Kingdom during 1974 of Romanian goods which remain subject to quantitative restriction. These represent overall very substantial increases in the facilities established for 1973.

'The services of my Department and the British Overseas Trade Board are available in the usual way to British exporters to Romania.'

Company law

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would introduce a Bill to reform company law in the present session of Parliament.

'We are considering the reform of company law but do not expect to be ready to introduce legislation in the present session,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis.

Radio and radar for ships

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex) referred to a recent incident when the empty ammunition ship Katherine Mitchell *collided with the sea wall at Canvey Island in foggy conditions close to an oil wharf and other high fire risk installations and asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would, as a matter of urgency, inquire into the need for all vessels above 50 tons GRT moving in estuarial waters to be fitted with operational VHF radio and radar.*

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The carriage of VHF radio and radar by vessels moving in estuarial waters is primarily a matter for the harbour authorities concerned.

'The Port of London Authority in exercise of their powers under the Port of London Act 1968 has issued general directions to vessels in the Thames on this matter and a copy is being sent to the Hon. Member. The Authority is carrying out an investigation into the incident involving the *Katherine Mitchell*, the outcome of which will be considered by my Department to see what further action might be required.'

Concorde

A number of questions were asked by Mr. John Cope (South Gloucestershire) on estimates and assumptions about the operation of Concorde by British Airways.

Mr. Shore replied: 'In arriving at their estimate that the operation of Concorde could substantially worsen their financial results, British Airways used a range of assumptions about a number of key-factors, including, in particular, the fares to be charged for Concorde services. The proportion of total traffic attracted to Concorde on the proposed routes, and the extent of losses on Concorde services themselves and of losses to British Airways' subsonic services from diversion of passengers to Concorde are all related to the assumption made about fare levels. British Airways have made it clear that, when they placed their order for five Concordes in May 1972, their estimates of the likely effect of Concorde operations on their total financial results ranged from an improvement of profitability of £6 million per annum to a worsening of £26 million per annum. Their latest estimate is that the outcome would at best be towards the adverse end of that range.

'British Airways have throughout assumed a single class of Concorde services. The following routes are covered in their latest estimates:

London–New York (Kennedy)
London–Washington
London–Sydney
London–Tokyo

'As my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Industry said in his statement on 18 March, supersonic corridors for services to Tokyo and Sydney have still to be arranged, although no objections in principle have been voiced. It is as yet uncertain whether the aircraft would prove acceptable at New York (Kennedy), Tokyo or Sydney on noise grounds.'

Civil air routes

'Will the Secretary of State for Trade restore to BAB the routes taken from them during the period 1970 to 1974?' asked Mr. Dan Jones (Burnley).

'This is one of the matters we are considering in reviewing civil aviation policy,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Airline statistics

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked if the CAA would publish, regularly, traffic and aircraft operating cost information of individual British airlines.

Mr. Shore said he understood that the Civil Aviation Authority were in the process of instituting a new system of obtaining statistics from airlines which would provide the Authority with more information than at present.

'The Authority are also considering how far it is possible to increase the amount of statistical material published,' he continued.

'They assure me that they intend to publish as much material as they can without damaging the national interest or jeopardising their own access to information.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Ministers of State: Eric Heffer
Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert MacLennan

Ministers at the Department of Energy

Secretary of State for Energy: Eric Varley
Minister of State: Lord Balogh
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gavin Strang
Alexander Eadie

Aircraft accidents

Mr. Edward Bishop (Newark) asked for a review of the arrangements for communications and advice to relatives of those concerned in aircraft accidents and for the establishment of continuing stand-by arrangements for such accidents.

'My Department has recently reviewed United Kingdom airlines' post-accident procedures,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis. 'These are now designed to ensure that, so far as possible, communication delays will be avoided and that next of kin will thus be spared needless distress.

'Foreign airlines are responsible for their own arrangements, but the principal airlines operating into this country are aware of the special facilities available at the accident centre at Heathrow which could be put at their disposal if needed. These were utilised following the Turkish Airlines DC-10 disaster near Paris on 3 March.'

Mr. Bishop and Mr. Hugh Rossi (Hornsey) also asked questions about the ceilings of compensation under the Warsaw Convention 1929 and the maximum compensation of £7,000 payable for death in air accidents under the Warsaw Convention and Guatemala Convention.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'We are in touch with my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary, but, as my Rt. Hon. Friend indicated on 14 March, these are matters involving other countries, and it would be unrealistic to hold out expectations of the early entry into force of the Guatemala Protocol, which would substantially increase the limit of liability. Before the DC-10 disaster, the Civil Aviation Authority, as a first step, had already been in contact with United Kingdom airlines about the possible provision of a higher limit of liability than that prescribed in the Warsaw Convention, as amended by The Hague Protocol. I would hope that this might be followed by action on a wider front. In the meantime British Airways have responded by agreeing to apply from 1 April a limit of liability of £25,000 in respect of contracts of carriage governed by the Warsaw Convention and performed on British Airways' services.

'The sterling equivalent of the limit under the Warsaw-Hague arrangements is adjusted from time to time to take account of currency fluctuations. The latest adjustment, made by order under the Carriage by Air Act 1961, which applies at the time awards are made, sets the sterling equivalent at £8,723.'

Mr. Phillip Whitehead (Derby, North) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied with the British participation in the inquiries into the crash of the DC-10 airliner of Turkish Airlines in France.

'Yes, Sir,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis. 'The French authorities invited the UK to appoint an observer to be present at their technical inquiry. This observer has had access to all pertinent information which has enabled the Civil Aviation Authority to be kept fully informed of the airworthiness aspects of the DC-10.'

Commodity agreements

Mr. Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked for a list of the commodity agreements to which HMG is currently a subscriber.

Mr. Deakins told him: 'The UK is a member of the following international commodity agreements:

Cocoa
Coffee
Olive oil
Tin
Wheat.'

EEC food imports

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked how much of the following foodstuffs were imported from the Common Market during 1973 and at what average price: durum wheat, common wheat, barley, maize, milk, butter, skim milk, beef, pigmeat, and white sugar.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

	Thousand tons	*Average value (cif) per ton £
Durum wheat	25	55.16
Common wheat	1,427	44.91
Barley	156	38.66
Maize	1,311	46.53
Milk (fresh)	nil	—
Butter (natural, fresh or salted)	177	447.44
Skim milk (items under SITC (R) 022.3 not exceeding 4% fat content by weight)†	0	55.26
Beef	65	626.32
Pigmeat (SITC(R) 011.3)	12	460.80
White sugar	16	103.75

* The average values quoted above are not true prices as they are influenced by varying qualities, transport costs and other factors.

† Figures relate to February to December as this item was not separately distinguished in the January trade statistics. 0 = less than 500 tons.

Department of Industry responsibilities

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked for a list of the responsibilities of Ministers in the Department of Industry.

Mr. Benn replied: 'I shall take responsibility for all central policy questions and for co-ordinations of the work of my Department.

'The Minister of State, the Rt. Hon. Lord Beswick, and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Meacher, will take responsibility for specific industries including iron and steel, aerospace and shipbuilding.

'The Minister of State Mr. Heffer will take responsibility for the Industry Act, regional industrial policy and small firms. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Mr. MacKenzie will work with him; and in addition will exercise special responsibilities in connection with the Post Office.'

Three-day week

An estimate was asked for by Mr. Leslie Huckfield (Nuneaton) of the loss of production and earnings because of the three-day week.

Mr. Benn replied that, from the limited statistical information available, manufacturing output may have been reduced by up to 1/5 in the first quarter, equivalent to a loss of GDP of the order of £1,000 million. For the economy as a whole the loss would be substantially greater. The index of average earnings in January, the latest month available, showed a fall of 4½ per cent compared with December.'

Imports and exports of steel

Mr. Leslie Spriggs (St. Helens) referred to the price British steel stockists are having to pay to speculators for BSC steel; and asked what part the Department of Industry plays in the export and import of British steel and whether export and import licences are being issued to facilitate such a situation.

Mr. Benn answered: 'I am aware of allegations that British steel has been exported, reimported and then offered for sale at the higher prices prevailing abroad. However, steel exports are now subject to control. My Department does not control steel imports.'

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich, West) inquired about means of identifying the country of origin of steel imported into the United Kingdom.

'In general, there are no practicable means of identifying the origin of imported steel products, once these have been distributed from the port of entry,' replied Mr. Meacher.

Export licensing for steel

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked if steel tube and tube fittings could be excluded from the scope of export licensing.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'I have already arranged for steel tube and pipe with tube and pipe fittings to be placed on an Open General Licence, which allows export of these products without restriction.'

Electric car

A question about research being initiated by the National Research and Development Corporation into the possibilities of an electric car was put by Mr. Michael Grylls (North West Surrey).

Mr. Meacher answered that the board of the National Research Development Corporation had authorised research programmes on integrated motor and control systems and also on an advanced battery. Other research projects in the field of electric vehicles were under consideration.

Newsprint

Mr. Bishop spoke of the shortage of newsprint and asked if the matter could be discussed with the appropriate trade associations and suppliers with a view to ensuring long-term supplies.

'My Department is well aware of the world-wide shortage of newsprint and is in close touch with UK producers,' answered Mr. Meacher. 'However, almost 70 per cent of our requirements are met by overseas producers and for these supplies we must compete with other users in the international market.'

Japanese-owned ballbearing factory

Mr. David Watkins (Consett) inquired about proposals for the construction of a Japanese-owned ballbearing factory in the North-East of England.

Mr. Heffer replied: 'A Japanese company announced in January its decision to set up such a factory in the United Kingdom and I understand that they have chosen a site in Peterlee, Co Durham—a special development area. The project is planned to provide employment for about 220 people and the company is prepared to give certain assurances about the way in which it proposes to operate here.'

Seahorse marine engine

A question about Government aid to assist the development of the Seahorse marine engine was asked by Mr. Frederick Willey (Sunderland, North).

Mr. Heffer said that the Department of Industry was discussing with those developing the engine certain proposals made by them.

Parliament continued

Tracked Hovercraft

Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely) asked if steps would be taken to implement the proposals of Imperial College, relating to Tracked Hovercraft Limited, following publication of the Third Report from the Select Committee on Science and Technology.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'A draft proposal involving the future use of the Tracked Hovercraft Limited facilities has recently been submitted by a consortium of interested parties in universities and is being considered by the Science Research Council as part of a broader review of its policy on research relating to advanced ground transport. In view of their continuing interests in this field the Department of Industry and the Department of the Environment are closely associated with the review. It is too early to indicate what conclusions may be reached in respect of the proposal.'

Aircraft noise

Mr. Bishop asked about Government aid for research into aircraft noise and into aircraft noise prevention on the ground.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'HMG is financing programmes of research on aircraft noise, including engine and airframe aspects; together with related examination of the operational procedures: these activities are all directed towards the reduction of noise on the ground. The research work is carried out in industry, in Government R & D establishments and in universities. Expenditure in 1973/4 is expected to be £1.7 million.

'In addition, a new noise test facility has recently been completed at the National Gas Turbine Establishment at a cost of approximately £2 million. HMG is also contributing about £0.7 million during 1973/4 towards the costs of programmes in industry aimed at demonstrating the technology which could be applied to future engines, including quieter versions of the M45H and RB211 engines.'

Reclaimed materials

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) suggested that the policy on grants for industrial development should be altered so as to include new businesses which recycle reclaimed materials instead of using virgin raw material paid for in foreign currency.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'Regional development grants are available in assisted areas where premises are used wholly or mainly for qualifying activities. These activities include the processing of scrap and waste materials. There are certainly border line cases both in fact and in law and if the Hon. Member has a particular case in mind I shall be very ready to consider it.'

Regional employment premium

Several members asked for a statement on the future of the regional employment premium.

Mr. Heffer said: 'We shall maintain the existing arrangements for regional employment premium while considering further possibilities for the future.'

Concorde

Mr. Tebbit (Chingford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what discussions he had had with the British Aircraft Corporation concerning the future of Concorde.

'I have had frank discussions with the senior management of BAC and Rolls-Royce (1971), the trade unions, and all levels of staff employed on the project,' said Mr. Benn.

Mr. Bishop asked if a Select Committee to consider the future of Concorde would be set up.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'On taking office, my Rt. Hon. Friend's first step was to make available the essential facts which he and my Hon. Friend together urged should be divulged to the House. He intends to do all he can to keep the House informed of developments.'

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked what was the sum of money set aside for the levy to recover some of the research and development costs of Concorde in the sales pricing structure by the British and French manufacturers of the aircraft.

Mr. Meacher answered that in the British and French manufacturers' original sale price proposals provision was made for levy according to the following formula:

4 per cent of the selling price – Aircraft Nos. 1-50
7 per cent of the selling price – Aircraft Nos. 51-100
10 per cent of the selling price – Aircraft beyond No. 100
10 per cent of the selling price – All spares

Mr. Warren also asked why the planned research and development levy by Her Majesty's Government on Concorde sales had been dropped.

'So long as the revenue from sales cannot recover production costs, no net receipts would be available to set against research and development costs,' answered Mr. Meacher.

Mr. Warren then inquired what was the latest position regarding a final decision on the acceptability of Concorde noise levels at New York's main airport, in view of the fact that the aircraft design registration date recorded by the Port of New York Authority precluded it from more recent certification requirements.

Mr. Meacher replied that Concorde's present noise performance at airports was still being studied, and no approach had been made to the Port of New York Authority. The aircraft noise requirements at New York (Kennedy) applied to all aircraft irrespective of the date of certification.

Mr. Warren asked if Mr. Benn had agreed the Concorde cost information with the British Aircraft Corporation before giving it to the House on 18 March.

Mr. Meacher answered that the basis of the information in Mr. Benn's statement of 18 March (see *Trade and Industry*, 28 March, page 542) has been explained to the British Aircraft Corporation and Rolls-Royce (1971) in discussion with the Department of Industry.

Industrial development

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked for a list of advance factories now vacant.

Mr. MacKenzie replied that six Department of Industry factories, vacant at present and available for a first occupier, were:

Nelson and Colne, Lancs
Sunderland, Co. Durham
Inchinnan, Renfrewshire
Caernarvon
Landore, nr. Swansea
Pontardulais, South Wales

'The building of a further 61 factories has already been authorised and 27 of these are now under construction,' added Mr. MacKenzie.

Energy saving

Mr. James Sillars (South Aryshire) asked if the Secretary of State for Energy intended to formulate proposals for energy saving in the autumn and winter of 1974-75.

Mr. Varley replied: 'The action needed to improve efficiency in the use of energy will extend well beyond next winter; but in arriving at my proposals I shall, of course, take into account the short term requirements for next winter and the experience of the last few months.'

North Sea oil

Mr. Varley was asked by Mr. John Brewis (Galloway) to formulate plans to ensure the provision of maximum facilities for the construction of concrete platforms for oil rigs at suitable deep-water sites on the Scottish coast for use in the development of North Sea oil resources.

He answered: 'In planning the provision in Scotland of deep-water construction sites for concrete oil production platforms it is necessary to take account of the environmental and social factors involved and this is the responsibility of my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland. I am, however, conscious of the need for a supply of these platforms if we are fully to exploit our North Sea oil resources and I am reviewing the matter.'

Oil and gas resources

Mr. Warren asked for a list of the relevant Acts controlling the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas resources on land in the UK.

Dr. Strang replied: 'The Petroleum (Production) Act 1934 provides for the grant of licences for exploration and production. Conditions of licences are contained in model clauses prescribed by Regulations under the Act. The operations of licensees are subject to requirements imposed under other enactments, including the following:

Town and Country Planning Act 1971
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972
Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Acts 1951-61
Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) (Scotland) Acts 1951-65
Water Act 1945
Water Resources Act 1963
Water (Scotland) Acts 1946-67
Pipelines Act 1962'

Gas oil

Mr. Skeet inquired about the price of gas oil for central heating, which he said had increased from about 10p a gallon to 20p within less than a year, and if the price of gas oil and certain other

petroleum products would be frozen as has been done in the Netherlands.

Dr. Strang replied: 'The price of landed crude oil has more than trebled over the past 12 months. Consequent increases in the overall price of oil products, including gas oil, were subject to the approval of the Price Commission. We have, in addition, control over maximum retail prices for petrol, derv and paraffin in the United Kingdom, but I do not think there is a case at present to extend this control to other oil products.'

Oil and gas exploration rights

Mr. K. Warren wanted to know the terms and conditions and locations of oil and gas exploration rights already granted on land in the UK.

Dr. Strang said that rights are granted by way of licences, the terms and conditions of which are set out in model clauses prescribed by the following Regulations made under Petroleum Production Act 1934:

The Petroleum (Production) Regulations 1935
The Petroleum (Production) (Amendment) Regulations 1954
The Petroleum (Production) (Amendment) Regulations 1957
The Petroleum (Production) Regulations 1966
The Petroleum (Production) (Amendment) Regulations 1971
The Petroleum (Production) (Amendment) Regulations 1972

As required by the Act, the locations of licences granted were published in the *London* and *Edinburgh Gazette*. A map was being prepared and would be lodged in the Library.

Severn Barrage Scheme

Mr. Ronald Atkins (Preston, North) asked if the Secretary of State for Energy would examine the economic feasibility of the Severn Barrage Scheme in the light of higher energy prices and dwindling supplies of energy and increasing demand.

Dr. Strang replied that officials had recently re-assessed the economic feasibility of the Severn Barrage Scheme and had concluded that it could not be competitive with alternative sources of power. The position was being kept under review.

Gas supply

Mr. Dafydd Thomas (Merioneth) wanted to know how many applications had been received to date under the provision of Section 7(1) of the Local Employment Act 1972 for a grant to be made for a supply of gas to new industrial projects; and how many had been approved.

'Only three such applications have been received: one was withdrawn, one was rejected, and the other is still under consideration,' said Dr. Strang.

Coal prices

Mr. Skeet wanted to know the expected yield to the NCB of a 48 per cent increase in coal prices in the Midlands fields and 28 per cent elsewhere to industrial users; and what differential remained between coal and oil prices to industrial consumers on the assumption that crude oil was available at (a) $7 a barrel, (b) $8, and (c) $10.

Mr. Eadie answered: 'The increases in the prices of coal to industrial users recently announced by the NCB are expected to yield £270 million in a full year. With these increases the average delivered price of power station coal will be equivalent to 4.3p a therm and the price for coal delivered to other industrial users will be equivalent to 5p a therm.

The main oil product used by industrial consumers is fuel oil. As a residual product, its price is not necessarily proportional to the cost of crude oil. It is normally agreed between the supplier and the consumer and depends upon the type of fuel, location of supplier and consumer, volume bought, method of delivery and other relevant considerations.

Mr. Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire) asked for an estimate of the cost to industry of the proposed increase in coal prices.

'The average increase in industrial coal price is £3.10 a ton' said Mr. Eadie. 'NCB disposals to this market was 10.3 million tons during 1973; thus an eventual increase in cost of just under £32 million a year might be expected.'

NCB deficits

Mr. Skeet asked for a list of the number of times deficits of the NCB have been written off since 1946, giving dates in each case and the amount involved, the total amount of funds made available to the industry and the amount repaid and the total tax paid by the Board during the past 28 years.

Mr. Eadie gave the following information (as at 31 March 1973):

1 Deficits have been written off on four occasions:

Date	Amount (£m)
27 March 1965	90.8
26 March 1966	24.8
25 March 1972	100.0
31 March 1973	174.6

2 Funds made available between 1 January 1947 and 31 March 1973 totalled £1,574.7 million, consisting of assets vested in the Board and loans from the Secretary of State. Repayments over the same period amounted to £431.4 million.

3 Total loan paid up to 31 March 1973, as shown in the Annual Report and Accounts, was £9.8 million.

Coal in Scotland

Mr. Sillars asked what proposals there were for abolishing the surcharge on coal produced in Scotland and also for an estimate of the currently known recoverable coal reserves in Scotland.

Mr. Eadie answered: 'NCB's pricing in individual coalfields has reflected the costs of production. The recently announced price increases in industrial coals will bear more heavily on coal from Yorkshire and Midlands and have substantially diminished pricing differentials.'

The NCB estimate the reserves accessible to currently working collieries in Scotland at about 230 million tons, but unproven reserves are far in excess of this figure.

Coal stocks

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked if measures would be taken to ensure that there would be four months' supply of coal in stock by November 1974.

'The balance between coal availability and consumption is not expected to be sufficient to enable total coal stocks to reach the equivalent of four winter months supply by November 1974,' answered Mr. Eadie. 'But my Department will encourage adequate stockpiling and the NCB are doing everything possible to increase supply for both consumption and rebuilding stocks.'

Consumer credit legislation

Mr. R. Bonner Pink (Portsmouth, South) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would introduce a Bill to deal with consumer credit.

'As soon as possible,' answered Mrs. Williams.

Metrication

Mr. Christopher Price (Lewisham, West) wanted to know the Government's new target date for full metrication in Great Britain and by what date the food industry will be fully metric.

Mr. Williams said: 'There is no change in the target dates for industry generally though I recognise that the dates for completion of the change will vary sector by sector.

Mr. Price also asked what campaign was planned to prepare the public for the changeover to metrication.

'This is the responsibility of the Metrication Board and I have stressed the importance of ensuring that the protection of the consumer is given the maximum significance,' said Mr. Williams.

Price Code

Mr. Ovenden (Gravesend) asked Mrs. Williams when she expected to announce her proposals relating to the price code.

Mrs. Williams said: 'The following is the text of the Consultative Document proposing amendments to the relevant parts of the Counter-Inflation (Price and Pay Code) (No. 2) Order 1973 and of the Counter-Inflation (Notification of Increases in Prices and Charges) (No. 3) Order 1973:

CHANGES IN PRICE CONTROL: CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

Introduction

1 The Government intend to take early action to strengthen the price controls in the Counter-Inflation (Price and Pay Code) Order, 1973 (Statutory Instruments 1973 No. 1785) and the associated Counter-Inflation (Notification of Increases in Prices and Charges) (No. 3) Order (Statutory Instruments 1973 No. 1786).

2 Under the Counter-Inflation Act 1973, the Treasury are required, before the Code is amended, to consult the representative bodies it considers appropriate, as well as the Agencies set up under the Act. The Government think it right that these consultations should embrace not only proposed changes in the Code but in connected notification procedural matters. This document will form the basis for these consultations.

3 As soon as the consultations are completed, Orders will be made amending the Code and Notification Order referred to in paragraph 1. Amendments to the Code and Notification Order take effect when the amending Orders are made or on a date specified in the Orders. Code amendments are subject to Affirmative Resolution procedure; Notification Order amendments to Negative Resolution procedure. The date for completing consultation is Tuesday, 9 April.

4 A draft of the proposed amendments to the Code is in the Annex.

PART I – THE CODE

Reduction of the gross percentage margins of distributors

5 The Code already includes a provision (paragraph 80) recognising that undue rises in retail prices may occur if distributors maintain existing profit margins in percentage terms on goods which have risen substantially in price. Under this provision, the Price Commission have carried out a review of the situation in food distribution and announced on 22 March that they have decided to confirm that there should be a reduction of one-tenth in the limit set in the Code on gross percentage margins of large or medium sized food retailers: they are giving further consideration to smaller food retailers and to food wholesalers.

6 The Government welcome the action taken by the Price Commission under the Code as it now stands but consider that the Code should be amended to require a general reduction of gross percentage margins over the whole range of distribution. The proposed amendment would cut by one-tenth the gross percentage margin reference levels defined in paragraphs 74 and 75 of the Code. The practical effect of the amendment would be that a distributor now required to operate within a gross percentage margin reference level of, for example, 20 per cent will be required to operate within a percentage margin of 18 per cent, a distributor now operating within a reference level of 30 per cent, within a margin of 27 per cent and so on.

7 The proposed cut in margins will not displace the existing procedure under which the Price Commission can investigate the situation in particular areas: nor is it intended to prejudice further consideration that the Commission are giving to smaller food retailers and to food wholesalers. The Government propose, moreover, to amend paragraph 80 so that the Price Commission can, in future, vary margins upwards or downwards as conditions warrant. This will offer a safeguard to any trades in which a more general reduction might operate too harshly because of special circumstances, while keeping open the possibility of making further reductions in margins where these are justified.

Restriction of the re-pricing of shelf stock

8 The Government believe that re-pricing of goods on shop shelves is not only generally unjustified but is damaging to the confidence of consumers in the fairness of retail prices. The Government therefore propose to restrict the extent to which goods displayed for sale can be re-priced because the cost of replacement stock has increased. This means that consumers may find the same goods on the shelves at different prices, depending on whether goods are old or new stock, but they believe that this will be less damaging to consumer confidence than the present re-pricing practice. Accordingly the draft amendment in the Annex would amend paragraph 77 of the Code so as to make the upward re-pricing of goods already displayed for sale a breach of the Code where this was done on grounds that the cost of replacement stock had increased.

9 The Government recognise that goods which are the subject of special offers or of sales for a particular period, may need to be re-priced at the end of the special promotional period. The best way of handling this and other problems, eg trades where the rate of stock turn is exceptionally low, will be discussed with trade representatives during the consultations.

Minimum three-month interval between price increases

10 The Government consider that there should be some restriction on the frequency with which manufacturing and service firms may increase prices. The proposed amendment to the Code, therefore, provides that an enterprise may not normally implement a price increase within three months of a previous price increase on the same product or service.

11 The Government recognise that there may need to be some safeguard for sectors or enterprises in situations where applying the three month rule would be too harsh.

12 This provision will apply to all price increases in manufacturing and service enterprises which are subject to the allowable cost rules of the Code including increases by public sector enterprises. It will not apply to price increases made under other provisions of the Code including the provisions relating to loss-making, low profits and investment. It is also recognised that it would be inappropriate to apply the three month rule for increases under cost escalation clauses in areas where these are already normal practice and it is normal practice for adjustments to take place more frequently, and the Government hope to cover this aspect in the consultations.

PART II – NOTIFICATION ORDER

28-day pre-notification period for Category II firms

13 In order to enable the Price Commission to make a more comprehensive examination of the large and increasing volume of pre-notifications of price increases by Category II firms in manufacturing and service industries (as defined in paragraph 5(2)(b) of the Counter-Inflation (Notification of Increases in Prices and Charges) (No 3) Order 1973) the Government proposes to extend the period of pre-notification for Category II companies from 14 days to 28 days. These Category II companies will thus be treated in the same way as are Category I companies at present.

Cost adjustment clauses

14 The Government also propose to change the notification procedures to deal with 'cost adjustment clauses'. These are clauses in contracts providing for automatic price increases when costs rise; they are sometimes known as 'escalation' or 'VOP' clauses. At present price increases under such clauses do not need to be pre-notified to the Price Commission. The Government see no need to alter this in areas (eg construction) where the clauses are already normal practice, but they wish to discourage them from spreading widely to new areas as a way of sidestepping Price Commission procedures. The Government therefore propose to amend the Notification Order to require pre-notification of price increases under cost adjustment clauses introduced after 26 March 1974 for a product or service, or for a class of customer, for which it was not previously the firm's normal practice to operate such clauses. It is intended to discuss this amendment during the period of consultation on the basis that pre-notification must as a minimum apply to goods and services supplied to distributors or direct to domestic consumers.

ANNEX. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PRICE CODE

Three months between price increases

Insert after paragraph 26 a new paragraph:

'Frequency of price increases

A price may not be increased within three months of its last increase, except where the provisions of paragraphs 56, 68 and 69 (companies making losses or lower profits) or paragraphs 70 to 71 (companies undertaking new investment) apply.'

10 per cent reduction in gross percentage margins

Revise paragraph 74 as follows:

'74 (i) in the determination of prices for sales within the United Kingdom, wholesalers, retailers and other enterprises engaged in distribution should ensure that their gross percentage margins do not exceed the proportion specified in sub-paragraph (ii) of the level of the gross percentage margin in either

(a) the last complete account year of the enterprise ending on or before 30 April 1973; or

(b) a 12-month period ending between 30 April 1972 and 30 April 1973 for which separate accounts are or can be made available,

less in either case an appropriate reduction for the abolition of SET. Where an enterprise has not traded long enough to establish a gross percentage margin under (i) or (ii) the margin for a complete quarter's trading before 30 April 1973 will apply.

(ii) The proportion of the gross percentage margin referred to in sub-paragraph (i) should be

(a) 100 per cent for any period on or before 31 March 1974;

(b) 90 per cent for any period after 31 March 1974.'

Revise paragraph 80 as follows

'80. Where in the judgment of the Commission a substantial change takes place in the costs of any goods to wholesalers or retailers or in their costs of operation, the Commission shall:

(i) consult any body or person whom they regard as representative of enterprises affected and take into account all relevant information supplied by them;

(ii) having regard to the situation of the product group as a whole, to the existing volume of trade, to the costs of operation of the enterprises concerned, and to the effect on the net profit margins consider whether the proportion of the gross percentage margins specified in paragraph 74(ii)(b) should be varied whether by way of reduction or increase;

(iii) after consultation with the bodies or persons referred to in sub-paragraph (i) inform them of any variation in margins which they consider appropriate and notify this to any enterprises.

When such a further variation in gross percentage margin has been notified paragraph 74(ii) in its application to that enterprise shall be modified accordingly.

Re-pricing

Insert a new paragraph after paragraph 77:

'Retailers should not make price increases on goods that are or have been displayed for sale by reference to increases in replacement costs even if such increase would otherwise be permitted by the Code.'

Expenditure on food

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) inquired the average family expenditure on food per head, and what percentage of this figure represents expenditure per head on bread by the average family.

Mrs. Williams said that according to the National Food Survey, average expenditure on food bought for consumption in the home (excluding sweets and soft drinks) was £2.85 per head per week in the fourth quarter of 1973. Six per cent of this expenditure was on bread. The importance of bread in family expenditure is greater with larger and lower income families, and among pensioners.

Bread subsidy

Mr. Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare) asked how much in money terms would be saved each week by an average consumer as a result of the recently announced bread subsidy. He also wanted to know how many loaves, of the type qualifying for subsidy, are bought each week by the average household.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'An average household will save just over 2 pence per week. But for those lower income families with more than the average number of children and for pensioners the saving will be considerably greater.'

Answering the second question, Mrs. Williams said that, according to the National Food Survey, an average household buys four loaves a week of the types qualifying for subsidy.

Consumer advice centres

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) asked if further steps would be taken to set up a national network of consumer advice centres.

Mrs. Williams replied that she was considering how local centres could best be developed as part of such a national network. 'I plan shortly to meet local authority representatives and the voluntary organisations, to discuss programmes for providing consumer advice centres,' she added.

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) inquired if additional steps would be taken to encourage local authorities to set up consumer advice centres.

Mr. Williams said: 'I am anxious to encourage local authorities to set up additional consumer advice centres. But the rate of progress will depend on the availability of finance and suitably trained advisers.'

Tuesday, 26 March

Merseyside

Mr. Leyden (Liverpool, Garston) asked if early consideration would be given to alleviating the unemployment on Merseyside now standing at 5.8 per cent.

'We intend to give high priority to the stimulation of regional development and employment,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'To this end we shall look carefully at the needs of areas, such as Merseyside, which have unacceptably high rates of unemployment.'

Polymer production

Mr. Ronald Bray (Rossendale) asked what tonnage of polymer was produced in the United Kingdom for each of the quarters of the years 1972 and 1973; what quantity was exported in each of those quarters; what percentage of British customers' requirements was fulfilled; what was the average price per ton for polymer in each of those quarters; and similar information for the months of January and February 1974.

Mr. Meacher gave the following table incorporating the available information. Monthly production data and an estimate of the percentage of British customers' requirements which was fulfilled are not available.

PRODUCTS OF POLYMERISATION AND COPOLYMERISATION (a)

	1972					1973				
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Year	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Year
										Th. metric tons
Production	283	293	287	304 (b) 319 (c)	1,167	336	349	339	N/A	N/A
Exports	58	75	49	86	268	71	64	53	58	246
Average price per ton (d)	N/A	N/A	N/A	£153		£160	£169	£175	N/A	N/A

Notes:
(a) Includes the following synthetic resins:
Polyurethane flexible and semi-flexible foams
Styrene polymer and copolymer non-toughened and toughened grades of resins, moulding and extrusion compounds, solutions, emulsions and dispersions, copolymer resins and non-toughened copolymer moulding and extrusion compounds
Polyethylene and polypropylene moulding and extrusion compounds
Polyvinyl acetate, including solutions and dispersions
Polyvinylchloride polymers and copolymers.
(b) Figures based on a voluntary inquiry.
(c) Figures based on a statutory inquiry, with wider coverage.
(d) Total value of sales of polymers divided by total quantity of sales.

Location of Department of Energy

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East) suggested that all but the parliamentary section of the Department of Energy should be transferred to Scotland.

Mr. Varley replied: 'Although there are strong arguments for locating much of my department in London, I am considering, in the light of our policies for promoting employment opportunities in Scotland and of the operational needs of my department, to what extent we might increase the existing strength of the department in Scotland.'

Department of Energy (Scientific section)

Mr. David Price (Eastleigh) wanted to know the size of the scientific section of the Department of Energy, measured in terms of number of staff and of annual budgeted expenditure; and what percentage of the total department manpower and budget these figures represented.

Mr. Varley replied: 'A total of 777 staff were employed, on 1 January 1974, in what can broadly be termed the scientific section of my department: this constituted 55 per cent of the total strength at that time. The position is very similar today, but later figures are not yet available.

'The department's provisional estimate of its expenditure during 1974/75 is £169,640,000 but of this £150,400,000 is provided for support to the Coal Industry. £4,245,000 of the balance is devoted to the what can broadly be described as scientific work (including Research and Development Contracts, the Safety in Mines Research Establishment, work in connection with Safety and Health in Mines and Quarries, and the Nuclear Inspectorate).

'In addition my department is responsible for the funding of the Atomic Energy Authority and also provides other support to nuclear research and development. Estimated net expenditure on the Nuclear Energy Vote is £62,440,000 in 1974/75.'

Advisory Council for Research and Development for Fuel and Power

Mr. David Price (Eastleigh) asked for the terms of reference of the Advisory Council on Research and Development for Fuel and Power; its current membership; how often it meets; and whether all its future work should remain private and confidential.

Mr. Varley replied: 'The terms of ref-

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erence of the Advisory Council on Research and Development for Fuel and Power are:

1 To advise the Secretary of State for Energy on research and development in relation to his statutory duty of securing the effective and co-ordinated development of coal, petroleum and other sources of fuel and power in Great Britain, and of promoting economy and efficiency in the supply, distribution, use and consumption of fuel and power, whether produced in Great Britain or not;
2 To advise the Secretary of State of new scientific and technical knowledge or applications of knowledge throughout the world, which in the opinion of the Council should be taken into account in the performance of his statutory duties;
3 To keep the whole field of fuel and power under continuous review with the object of identifying problems needing research and development and advising the Secretary of State of these problems with a view to discussion with the industries.

'I am arranging to send the Hon. Member details of the current membership. The Council normally meets formally five or six times a year. In addition it visits relevant research establishments from time to time. I propose to continue the past practice of preserving the confidentiality of the Council's advice to me.'

Magneto-hydrodynamic generation

Mr. David Stoddart (Swindon) asked how much had been spent in research by the CEGB on research into MHD generation; and with what result.

'No precise figure is available to me but approximately £3 million was spent in total by the CEGB,' replied Mr. Eadie. 'The CEGB experiment was terminated before completion when it became evident that MHD generators had no chance of being economically attractive. The CEGB does keep the economics of MHD under review.'

Thermionic generation of electricity

Mr. Price asked for an outline of the nature and the cost of all research and development projects currently being supported into the thermionic generation of electricity and into the thermo-electric generation of electricity, respectively, and what conclusions have been reached regarding the further development of either method as a potential economic method of generating electricity for the British market.

Dr. Strang replied that the Department of Energy is not currently supporting any research on either thermionic or thermo-electric generation. He said: 'Investigations by the CEGB some years ago revealed severe technical problems and the limited prospective benefits did not justify the continuation of the work. It is the Department's view, based on a recent internal study and a knowledge of work in progress in other countries, that the increase in fuel prices has not invalidated this conclusion.'

Fusion reaction

Mr. Price asked about financial support to the UKAEA for research and development work into the civil use of the fusion reaction over the next five years; and when, on the basis of current knowledge, an order for two prototype civil fusion reactors for the generation of electricity for the national grid would be placed.

Mr. Eadie answered: 'Research into controlled thermonuclear fusion as a means of generating electricity is carried out by the UK Atomic Energy Authority within the framework of a European Community programme extending to the end of 1975. Cash expenditure by the Authority, net of a contribution by the Community, is expected to be about £3 million in the current financial year and rather more in 1974-75. The level of expenditure thereafter will be decided in the light of progress both in Europe and elsewhere.

'A controlled thermonuclear reaction producing a net output of energy has not yet been demonstrated on a laboratory scale in any country, although steady progress is being made. It is therefore very difficult to estimate when fusion power reactors might be ordered, but it seems unlikely that prototype reactors capable of generating significant quantities of electricity for the national grid will be ordered much before the end of the century.'

Reduction of transmission losses

Mr. Price asked about research and development in reducing the energy losses sustained in current methods of electricity transmission.

Mr. Eadie answered that methods of reducing losses in transmission were known and it was largely a question of balancing such gains against the resources required to achieve them. 'I am advised that the Electricity Council's programme of research and development is adequate,' he added.

Tidal power

Mr. Price asked what studies were being undertaken by the Department of Energy or commissioned externally, into the prospects of generating electricity economically by use of tidal barrages; and what were the preliminary conclusions.

Dr. Strang replied that officials had recently re-assessed the economic feasibility of the Severn Barrage Scheme and had concluded that, despite the increase in fuel prices, it could not be competitive with alternative sources of power. The position was being kept under review.

Solar energy

Mr. Price asked what research and development work was being sponsored into the utilisation of solar energy, both as a more direct source of heating and as a primary method of generating electricity.

Dr. Strang replied that the Government was contributing to the Euratom research programme, including research on solar energy both for electricity generation and direct heating. The Secretary of State for the Environment was also evaluating the prospects for using solar energy for space heating.

Fuel cells

A progress report upon the research and development work, supported by public funds, into the chemical fuel cell was asked for by Mr. Price.

Dr. Strang replied: 'There has been no significant research on fuel cells supported from public funds in the UK since the research sponsored by the NRDC was terminated during 1972. The Government keep such developments under review and I am advised that neither the changed energy scene nor developments in other countries warrant any expenditure for research on fuel cells by my Department. I do not therefore propose to make a progress report on the subject.'

Heat utilisation

Mr. Price asked what steps were being taken to find methods whereby the Central Electricity Generating Board may be able to utilise more than one-third of the latent energy in the fuels converted into electricity for the grid.

Mr. Eadie replied: 'The CEGB have the statutory responsibility to provide an efficient and economic supply of electricity, and also to investigate methods of utilising heat produced in association with electricity generation. I am assured that the CEGB have made, and will continue to make, every endeavour to investigate and offer the supply of heat.'

Shale oils

Mr. Price wanted to know the workable reserves of shale oil in Great Britain; and at what price of crude oil it became economic to start working these reserves again.

Dr. Strang said: 'According to estimates published by the United Nations in 1967, total United Kingdom resources are in the range 1,500-2,000 million tons of shale. Workable reserves are probably very much less: studies are being undertaken by the Institute of Geological Sciences to obtain more exact information on this. Mr A. F. Macleod Matthews, a consultant, was recently appointed to carry out a study for my Department to indicate whether shale oil production could be revived on an economic basis, regard being paid to oil price levels among other factors.'

Patent Office publications for industry

The Patent Office offers industry a wide range of publications. These include the Official Journal (Patents), the Trade Marks Journal, British Patent Specifications, Illustrated Abridgements of Patent Specifications, Reports of Patent, Design and Trade Mark Cases, and 50-year subject matter file lists of British Patent Specifications. Details of these and other publications may be obtained by post from Sale Branch, the Patent Office, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3RD or by personal application at the Public Sale Counter of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2.

Electricity storage

Mr. Price asked what research and development work was being sponsored into more cost effective methods of storing electricity.

Mr. Eadie said that the Government had sponsored a study of the sodium sulphur battery at Harwell with the co-operation of the Electricity Council and British Rail. Consideration was now being given to mounting a larger Government sponsored research programme.

Amendments to Price Code

Mr. Ken Marks (Manchester, Gorton) inquired about further proposals for amending the Price Code.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The increases in indirect taxes announced by the Chancellor will lead to certain higher prices. But the Government does not intend that extra profits should be made at the expense of consumers as a result of these tax changes. This means that price increases should not exceed the cash amount of the tax change, and should not be applied to goods already in stock which did not bear the new rate of tax.

'To give effect to the Government's intentions changes are needed in the notification arrangements and Price Code rules to clarify the position relating to indirect tax changes.

'First the Price Code rules will be amended so that an addition may be made to prices not exceeding the cash amount of the tax change. The necessary Code amendments are annexed in draft.

'Secondly the notification requirements for manufacturers will be amended so that an increase in prices limited to the cash amount of the tax change need not be notified to the Price Commission for prior scrutiny

'The Notification Order is being made today and will come into effect tomorrow. There will be consultations about the amendments to the Code which will be made as soon as possible and will apply with effect from tomorrow to the tax changes announced today. These Code amendments will be made and will take effect in advance of the amendments in the Consultative Document which I published yesterday. Traders concerned with tax changes will be consulted immediately.

'The retail price of petrol is controlled by an Order under the Fuel and Electricity Act. The Secretary of State for Energy will be amending the Order before 1 April when the extension of VAT comes into effect.'

Annex: proposed amendments to the code

The first of these amendments relates to price increases in manufacturing and the provision of services. The second relates to adjustments for indirect tax changes in the calculation of net profit margins for price control purposes. The third and fourth amendments affect distributors' prices and gross percentage margins.

1 *Insert new paragraph 26A*

'(i) Where after 25 March 1974 an indirect tax has been increased, an addition not exceeding the cash amount of the increase borne by the vendor may be made to the prices permitted by other provisions of the Code for goods bearing the increased tax. Where an indirect tax is reduced the reduction must be fully reflected in prices.

(ii) This paragraph applies also to the effects of changes in the coverage of indirect taxes.

(iii) In calculating maximum permitted price increases after 25 March 1974, the figures for total costs per unit and the selling price at the base date must exclude any additions or reductions under this paragraph.'

Note: If a paragraph stipulating that a price may not be increased within three months of the last increase in that price is inserted in the Code, as in the proposals published by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection on 25 March, provision would be made to enable increases resulting from changes in indirect taxes to be disregarded in applying the three months rule.

2 *Paragraph 63*

Add at end:

'and of other changes in those duties where indirect taxes have been increased (or reduced) after 25 March 1974. A deduction should be made from the value of sales corresponding to the cash value of the extra tax borne by the goods sold: similarly, an addition should be made for a reduction in tax.'

3 *Insert new paragraph 74A*

'Where indirect taxes have been increased after 25 March, an addition not exceeding the cash amount of the increase may be made to the prices charged by distributors. Where indirect taxes are reduced, the reduction must be fully reflected in prices.'

4 *Paragraph 75*

Add at end:

'In particular the cash value of increases in indirect taxes referred to in paragraph 74A should be deducted from both sales and costs of sales in arriving at current gross percentage margins. Similarly the cash equivalent of any tax reductions should be added to costs and sales.'

Wednesday, 27 March

Furfuryl alcohol

Mr. Ronald Bray (Rossendale) asked for a list of producers of furfuryl alcohol, the quantities produced by each for the home and export markets as a percentage of respective and total United Kingdom production, together with the typical domestic and export prices for comparable quantities. Mr. Bray also referred to the effect of the shortage of furfuryl alcohol upon the foundry industry; and asked what steps were proposed to improve the supply position.

Mr. Meacher said: 'The only United Kingdom producer is Quaker Oats Ltd. who manufacture it from furfural imported from their parent company in the United States. Production is restricted because of a shortage of furfural which is manufactured from sugar cane waste. Information is not available on UK production or prices but Quaker Oats Ltd. advise that there are no exports.

'I am aware of the difficulties the foundry industry is having because of the shortage. I understand from the producers that the quantities available should begin to improve in the middle of the year.'

Return on net assets

Mr. Nicholas Edwards (Pembroke) asked for a table showing for the years 1950 to 1973 the average rate of return on net assets in UK manufacturing industry, analysed as follows: (a) *pre-tax rate of return on historic cost net assets,* (b) *pre-tax rate of return on replacement cost net assets,* (c) *post-tax rate of return on historic cost net assets, and* (d) *post-tax rate of return on replacement cost net assets.*

Mr. Meacher gave the information available for UK manufacturing industry in the table below.

RATES OF RETURN ON CAPITAL EMPLOYED
LARGE QUOTED MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

	Net trading income/ Net trading assets (a)		Net income after deducting all interest charges/shareholders' interest (b)	
	At historic costs	At replacement costs	Before tax	After tax
1950	20.9	19.6	25.9	12.3
1951	22.8	21.1	27.9	12.1
1952	17.8	15.6	21.4	9.0
1953	18.5	15.9	21.7	9.7
1954	19.1	16.6	22.6	11.2
1955	18.9	16.0	21.9	11.4
1956	17.1	14.2	19.8	9.9
1957	16.1	13.0	18.5	9.3
1958	14.8	11.2	16.9	9.0
1959	16.0	13.4	17.9	10.3
1960	16.5	14.1	18.1	10.0
1961	14.2	11.9	15.3	8.3
1962	12.4	10.3	13.6	7.4
1963	13.3	11.0	14.6	8.0
1964	14.6	12.2	16.3	9.1
1965	13.9	11.3	15.3	9.9
1966	12.0	9.5	13.3	6.2
1967	12.0	9.7	13.7	7.2
1968	13.4	10.8	15.9	8.3
1969	12.5	9.9	15.1	7.7
1970	11.5	8.6	13.6	7.4
1971	12.6	9.2	14.8	8.6
1972			17¼ (c)	11 (c)

(a) The ratio of net trading income to net trading assets is the ratio of gross trading income less depreciation to the total of tangible net fixed assets, net current assets other than investments, bank overdrafts, loans and dividend provisions. In the first column both depreciation and tangible net fixed assets are at historic costs; in the second column they are at replacement costs. This analysis prepared by the Accountancy Staff of the Monopolies and Mergers Commissionis based on the results of the Department of Industry analysis of the accounts of large manufacturing quoted companies.

(b) The ratio of net income to shareholders' interest is the ratio of gross income less all interest payments and depreciation at book values to the total of ordinary and preference shares, capital and revenue reserves, tax equalisation and deferred tax reserves and minority interests. The post tax figures are after deducting from net income company tax charged other than deterred tax, and income tax payable on ordinary and preference dividend and adding investment grants.
This is based on the Department of Industry analysis of the accounts of large manufacturing quoted companies operating mainly in the United Kingdom; the population of companies covered by this analysis was revised in 1960, 1964 and 1969.

(c) Based on provisional results for 1972 derived from accounts analysed up to 30 September 1973.

Hovertrain project

Mr. K. Warren asked for a statement on the dismantling of the 'Hovertrain' project and test site and the progress made by the Hawker Siddeley Co., and others, on the development of the linear motor under contract to HMG.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'The Tracked Hovercraft Ltd. facilities at Erith, including the one-mile of usable track, are currently being maintained by the National Research

Development Corporation, and no arrangements have been made to dismantle them. A high-level section of track, for which there is no foreseeable future need, will however be demolished shortly.

'Contracts for assessment and development of linear motors have been placed with the General Electric Co. Hirst Research Centre, Brush Electrical Machines Ltd. (a Hawker Siddeley company) and Linear Motors Ltd. Work is proceeding satisfactorily. A research and development programme committee has been set up to co-ordinate and review work on linear motors and other related work.'

Car parts and components

Figures were requested by Mr. Clemitson (Luton, East) showing the value of car parts and components imported from and exported to the other member countries of the EEC for 1973, and for each of the past five years.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Car parts and components are not separately distinguished in the trade statistics; the following figures relate to parts and components for all vehicles:'

	Imports (1) £ million cif	Exports (1) £ million fob
1969 (2)	39.1	74.5
1970	26.2	68.2
1971	32.0	85.3
1972	54.2	98.0
1973	68.2	123.9

Notes:
(1) These figures cover SITC(R) 732.6, 732.81 and part of 732.89. They exclude chassis with engines for vehicles other than cars and, apart from 1969, parts expressly for special purpose vehicles and tractors.
(2) 1969 figures include parts for special purpose vehicles and tractors. For comparative purposes the value of these parts in 1970 was £26.2 million for imports and £16.0 million for exports.

Aircraft noise

Mr. Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would make some provisions to protect householders living in close proximity to airport terminals and suffering from high noise levels considered to be detrimental to the long-term health interests of such residents.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'At airports which have been designated under Section 29 of the Civil Aviation Act 1971, where noise abatement is the direct responsibility of my Rt. Hon. Friend, measures to reduce the effect of aircraft noise on the ground are already in force. As part of these measures schemes at Heathrow and Gatwick provide for the payment of grants, within defined areas near the airports, to assist with the insulation of dwellings against aircraft noise. At airports which have not been so designated, noise abatement is primarily a matter for the airport authorities concerned. For example there are noise insulation grant schemes at Luton and Manchester financed by the local authorities who own and operate those airports.'

Milk subsidy

Mr. John Ellis (Brigg and Scunthorpe) asked Mrs. Williams whether she would propose a further consumer subsidy on milk.

Mrs. Williams said: 'As indicated by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Statement yesterday, the Government has decided to reduce the maximum retail prices of all grades of milk for liquid consumption by 1p per pint with effect from 21 April.

'An Order implementing this decision is being laid before the House today.

'Expenditure in 1974/75 on this further subsidy on milk is estimated at £127 million. A Supplementary Estimate will be presented to the House, and pending approval of this it may be necessary in due course to have recourse to the Contingencies Fund.'

Unit pricing

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim asked if proposed legislation on unit pricing would take the form of reintroducing the proposals of the last Government on this subject; and when the Bill would be introduced.

'I hope to introduce this legislation before the Easter recess,' replied Mr. MacLennan. 'It will be more comprehensive than that introduced by the last Government.'

Celtic Sea

A statement about the part Plymouth is likely to play in the exploitation of Celtic Sea oil was asked for by Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake).

'Exploration drilling in the Celtic Sea has only recently started,' answered Dr. Strang. 'The extent to which particular ports are used will depend on precisely where drilling and any subsequent development takes place and how far the ports concerned meet the operators' requirements but the advantages offered by Plymouth in this connection are fully appreciated.'

Cornwall

Mr. David Mudd (Falmouth and Camborne) spoke of the interests of Cornwall in the exploration for, and exploitation of, oil and gas from the western seas and asked if they would be taken into account. He asked if the south-west would be included in any United Kingdom Hydrocarbon Corporation.

Dr. Strang answered: 'I very much hope that firms both in Cornwall and elsewhere will take the fullest possible advantage of the opportunities arising from offshore oil and gas activities. As to the last part of the Hon. Member's question, the Government will take full account of the interests of all parts of the United Kingdom in reaching decisions on the means it will adopt to ensure maximum benefit to the community from the development of our petroleum resources.'

Oil allocations

Mr. Robert Redmond (Bolton, West) asked what provision was being made for garages which had increased their business over the last year and yet had been given petrol allocations based on a percentage of their turnover at a time when demand upon them was a fraction of that now obtaining.

Dr. Strang replied: 'The oil allocation scheme contains an appeals procedure which should be followed by any garage which considers that its allocation of petrol does not properly reflect its current level of sales.'

Thursday, 28 March

Jobs in Wales

Mr. Gwynoro Jones (Carmarthen) asked how many new jobs were created in Wales as a result of industrial building completion in the period of 1970 to 1974; what was the comparable figure for 1965 to 1969; and what were the corresponding figures for Carmarthenshire.

In reply Mr. MacKenzie said that the information was not available in the form requested. Employment created by manufacturing establishments new to Wales known to the Department which opened in the periods 1966-69 and 1970-73, with corresponding figures for Carmarthenshire, was:

	Wales	Carmarthenshire
1966-69	23,600	2,200
1970-73	14,800	600

There was delay in securing information and therefore the latest figures were underestimated.

Government holdings in shipbuilding

Mr. Skeet wanted an indication of the state holdings in British shipbuilding companies and wanted to know if it was proposed to use the Industry Act 1972 to increase state equity holdings in shipbuilding firms.

It was stated by Mr. Meacher that the Government had equity holdings in three UK shipbuilding companies, viz: Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. (wholly Government owned); Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd. (a 50 per cent holding of ordinary shares), and Harland and Wolff Ltd. (a 47.6 per cent holding of ordinary shares). Proposals for further public ownership of the shipbuilding industry had been set out in the Labour Party's election manifesto.

Unilateral work on Concorde

A list of the provisions in the Anglo-French treaty of 1962 on Concorde which relate to the continuation of the project by one of the partners unilaterally was requested by Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury).

In response Mr. Meacher said there was none. The 1962 Anglo-French Treaty referred only to the decision by the British and French Governments to develop and produce jointly a civil supersonic transport aircraft.

Second runway for Luton

An assurance that the review of the Maplin Airport project that had been announced would not extend to consideration of any proposal to construct a second runway at Luton Airport, was sought by Mr. David Madel (South Bedfordshire).

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'As part of the review, we shall be considering how the traffic can be accommodated at existing airports. We must await the outcome of this work but there are no plans for a second runway at Luton.'

Air services in Scotland

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) wanted to know whether there had been received the recommendations of the Civil Aviation Authority on air services in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, called for in the Civil Aviation Policy Guidance.

'The Authority has recently submitted its conclusions and recommendations,' replied Mr. Shore. 'I am very grateful to the Authority for this report. I shall be considering it in consultation with my colleagues and will announce our views on it as soon as possible.'

Commodity markets

Mr. Skeet asked for an identification of the principal commodity markets centred on the UK with their dates of formation.

In response, Mr. Deakins gave the following information: The principal UK commodity markets for futures trading and their dates of establishment were:

1 The London Metal Exchange	1877
Copper, tin, lead, zinc and silver.	
2 The London Commodity Exchange, comprising separate markets for:	
Coffee	1888
Sugar	1888
Cocoa	1928
Vegetable oils	1967
3 The Grains Market, established in Liverpool and London in the 1880s	

Mr. Skeet then asked for an identification of the commodity markets affecting the principal foodstuffs and raw materials, and an indication of their general location.

The following information was given by Mr. Deakins. The commodity markets affecting principal foodstuffs and raw materials and their general location (apart from those situated in the UK, given in reply to the previous preceding question) were:

Soya bean complex and grains—Chicago; copper, silver, sugar, cocoa, cotton and coffee—New York; wool—Sydney; rubber, tin and palm oil—Malaysia; sugar, cocoa and coffee—Paris.

Real Estate Fund of America

Mr. Arthur Lewis (Newham, North-West) wanted to know when it was expected that the Departmental investigation into matters pertaining to the Real Estate Fund of America would be concluded, and whether it was arranged for a report to be published.

'Inquiries by officers of the Department into the affairs of two companies associated with the Real Estate Fund of America Ltd. were made under Section 109 of the Companies Act 1967, and concluded in November 1970,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis. 'I am precluded by Section 111 of the Act from disclosing or publishing information obtained under Section 109, except for the purposes of prosecution. My Hon. Friend was told on 22 March 1974 that Police inquiries have not yet been completed and I am not in a position to make any statement.'

Friday, 29 March

Grants to industry

Mr. Skeet asked for specifications of the total grants made to specific industries under the Industry Act 1972 and the name of companies in which the State had acquired a shareholding since the inception of the Act.

In reply Mr. MacKenzie said that the only grants so far made to specific industries under the Industry Act 1972 were to the shipbuilding industry under Section 11. Payments up to 28 February 1974 totalled £26.6 million. Provision existed under schemes formulated under Section 8, for grants to be made to the wool textile industry and to UK firms who provided offshore supplies, but no payments had so far been made.

The shareholdings taken under the Act were: Kearney and Trecker Marwin Ltd. – 100,000 8½ per cent redeemable convertible 'B' third preference shares of £1 and 400,000 7½ per cent redeemable participating non-convertible fourth preference shares of £1; Norton Villiers Triumph Ltd. – 3,500,000 £1 'A' redeemable preference shares and 1,372,000 £1 'B' redeemable convertible preference shares; Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. – 5,000,000 £1 ordinary shares.

Selling Concorde

Who was responsible for establishing the selling price of a Concorde aircraft? asked Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings).

'The manufacturers propose to British and French Governments the selling price to be offered to airlines,' answered Mr. Meacher. 'The actual sales price, which is also subject to the approval of Governments, can only be established after negotiation with individual airlines.'

European Investment Bank loans

Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) wanted to know if the Government would seek to obtain and list the loans made to British industry by the European Investment Bank in the year 1973.

In response, Mr. MacKenzie said that the following loans for UK industrial projects were announced by the European Investment Bank in 1973:

(1) A loan of £3.5 million to the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation Ltd. towards the cost of financing small and medium-scale projects in the development areas of the UK.

(2) A loan of £14.7 million to the British Steel Corporation towards the cost of new burden preparation facilities at Teesside.

(3) A loan of £14.7 million to the British Steel Corporation towards the cost of a third blast furnace and other supporting plant at Llanwern, South Wales.

BSC pricing schedules

What discussions had been held with the British Steel Corporation regarding the Corporation's pricing schedules, and with what result, asked Mr. Bruce-Gardyne (South Angus).

'The Corporation discussed its prices with me,' replied Mr. Meacher, 'and, with effect from 28 March, has increased by an average of 25 per cent the price of steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty; the increase in the price of tinplate used in canning food for human consumption is 15 per cent.'

BSC joint steering group

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne also wanted to know what plans there were for the re-establishment of the joint steering group for the British Steel Corporation.

Mr. Meacher said: 'None, Sir. I am, however, reviewing the Corporation's clos ure plans, and will look again at planned capacity levels.'

The work of BSI

The British Standards Institution is the official standards organisation for this country and is very active in removing technical barriers to trade through international standards organisation such as ISO and IEC. BSI has several other functions. It runs certification and approval schemes, among them granting licences to manufacturers to use the 'Kitemark' on products conforming to British Standards. It also undertakes testing work for outside bodies and, through the Technical Help to Exporters Scheme, provides information on technical requirements and approvals procedures in overseas markets. BSI, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS.

N.E.L.D.C.++++
TOMORROWS INDUSTRY CHOOSES THE NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE INTERMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT AREA FOR ITS EXPANSION++ A WIDE RANGE OF FIRMS WITH HIGHLY TECHNICAL PROCESSES HAVE ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN THE AREA++++
IF YOU ARE A TOMORROWS FIRM AND WISH TO LEARN SOMETHING TO YOUR ADVANTAGE,CONTACT: ++ BOB CHILDES, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, TOWN HALL, PADIHAM, LANCASHIRE++++ TELEPHONE PADIHAM 71557/73005.++++++
N.E.L.D.C.++++ N.E.L.D.C++++ N.E.L.D.C.++++

Exhibitions and Fairs

Cautious buyers skirt issue at Dusseldorf fashion salon

From H. C. von Massenbach, Commercial Section, British Consulate-General, Dusseldorf: The fashion world came to Dusseldorf to celebrate with a crowded programme of receptions, fashion shows and civic functions, the 100th IGEDO – the International Fashion Fair – 10-13 March. In the 25 years since 1949 when the first IGEDO was staged with 24 exhibiting firms, the Dusseldorf international fashion fairs have grown to become major international attractions for the fashion trade and industry. Today IGEDO lays claim to being the world's largest fashion market.

Some 1,200 exhibiting firms, 170 of which were foreign, attracted a record number of near 24,400 buyers to the fair. Foreign buyers, it was noted, came largely from France, Belgium, Holland, Scandinavia and Switzerland. With over 18 countries represented, France with 56 exhibitors and Italy with 41 exhibitors accounted for the largest foreign representation.

Six British exhibits were staged under the joint venture scheme, sponsored by the British Hosiery and Knitwear Export Group, supported by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Companies such as F. C. Bacon Ltd., specialist in kilts; Crochetta Ltd., producer of high fashion men's and women's knitwear; the Courtaulds Garment Export Group with knitwear garments of some five of its member companies (*picture*); Hood of Leicester Ltd. and R. Smallshaw (Knitwear) Ltd., Leicester, were included.

In addition, four other British companies exhibited independently or were represented by agents.

By virtue of the character of this March IGEDO, the main interest of the visiting buyers was centred on the latest summer collections with nearly 70 per cent of the exhibiting firms offering the trade this last opportunity to fill their stocks.

Generally good to very good business was registered, particularly by those producers specialising in young fashion. Blazers, skirts, blouses, cardigans, two-piece dresses and not least jeans were foremost in demand.

Those firms pre-viewing autumn and winter collections found buyers very price-conscious and restrained in their ordering. German trade buyers in particular tended to gather general information with the intention of studying offers in detail at the Munich Fashion Week, 24-28 March.

While the British firms – who came, for the most part, with autumn and winter garments – could not report more than satisfactory business, the significance of their presence at the fair was seen by all as an additional useful step in the direction of cementing old and new contacts to further their long term export effort

Shopfitting display fixed for Brighton

As a result of increasing demand for space in Shopex, the Self Service Display Equipment and Shopfitting Exhibition, organiser Westbourne Exhibitions reports that it has secured additional space in the Metropole Exhibition Halls, Brighton, and it is now anticipated that approximately 100 exhibitors will participate.

Shopex takes place 15-18 September.

In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be a retail conference, organised in three sessions on the mornings of 15 and 16 September.

New York Gift Show: Britons make their presents felt

From B. P. Goldman, British Trade Development Office, New York: The New York Gift Show, held at the New York Coliseum, 24 February-1 March, maintained its past tradition of success. Organised twice a year during the peak buying seasons to help meet the needs of a market for giftware conservatively valued in excess of $3 billion annually, covering an almost limitless number of items in all price ranges, the event provides ample opportunity for exhibitors with the right merchandise and experience of regular participation in trade shows. Those exhibitiong this year did well, even though out-of-town buyer attendance was curtailed because of petrol shortages and a forecast of a slow-down in the growth of consumer spending.

This year nine exhibitors showing products from 13 British manufacturers took part in a joint venture group sponsored by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce and the British Overseas Trade Board.

For two of the nine firms, this was a first time showing in the NY Gift Show. Relondra introduced a new line of hand-made leather hand bags, while Crayonne Ltd. successfully exhibited 'Inputs', 21 multi-purpose plastic household containers attractively styled in glossy red, white, yellow and green.

In the show for the second time were Crefftau'r Ddraig (Dragon Crafts) with a wide range of hand-made products, including hand decorated mugs, sterling silver jewellery and ceramic animals. Also utilising the 'animal' theme were Heredities Ltd. with limited editions of the American Rocky Mountain Goat and Welsh pony, created in bronze using a new cold casting process.

Both Etchmasters Ltd. and Perfect Replicas Ltd. were successful in creating buyer interest in their respective 'Bi-Centennial' series of etched copper pictures and hand-made reproductions of historical English brasses, while Athena Reproductions, well known for its art posters, introduced a new line of individually packaged and boxed cards featuring reproductions of the work of Picasso, Brueghel and Hieronymous Bosch.

In complete contrast, George Butler of Sheffield Ltd., one of Britain's oldest cutlers, highlighted a new range of gift packaged kitchen knife sets made unique by having a 'gold' key — the firm's trade-mark dating back to the 18th century – embossed on handles covered in black fibre.

Last, but by no means least, Horne of England Ltd., a continuing successful joint venture entrant in the NY Gift Show series, attracted buyers with its comprehensive range of 'town and country' decorative accessories which included place mats (Celluware Ltd.), tankards (Gibson & Sons Ltd.), melamine platters (A. W. Laminates) and porcelain door furniture (Heatherley Fine China Ltd.).

Despite the current short-term economic uncertainties, it was most encouraging to note that the British exhibitors at this event received a fair share of attention from giftware buyers – sufficient in fact to encourage most, if not all, to return in August 1974.

BOTB to boost capital goods in Indonesia

British manufacturers will be provided with a unique opportunity to profit from Indonesia's growing economy when the British Industrial Exhibition is held in Jakarta 7-13 November. This will be the only exhibition of its type in Indonesia in 1974 and will undoubtedly play a considerable part in stimulating greater sales of British goods.

Industrial and Trade Fairs International organising the event, reports that the Indonesian economy is growing fast, there is improvement in almost every sector and the planned growth rate of 7 to 9 per cent per annum seems likely to be realised. The scale of Indonesia alone promises potential – 125 million people and 3,000 islands with a land area of 735,000 square miles.

Although direct exports from the United Kingdom are rising at about 36 per cent per year, the British Overseas Trade Board feels that there is scope for an even greater growth and has decided to sponsor an exhibition of British industrial goods in Jakarta with the aim of making them familiar to Indonesian businessmen.

Product categories cover a wide range and are capital goods orientated, reflecting the growing needs of an expanding economy and the rapid industrialisation taking place in Indonesia.

The exhibition will take place in the Hotel Indonesia and will offer exhibitors both inside and outside display facilities.

Among the companies which have already applied to take part in the exhibition are: Aluminium Wire and Cable Co. Ltd., British Insulated Callender's Cables Ltd., David Brown Tractors Ltd., Dawson-Keith Electric Ltd., EMI-MEC Ltd., GEC Ltd., GKN International Ltd., Howson-Algraphy Group (Vickers Ltd.), A. A. Jones and Shipment Ltd., James MacKie and Sons Ltd. and Sciaky Electric Welding Machines Ltd.

Cutting the tape to open the British Building and Construction Equipment Exhibition, Dubai. 16-23 March, is His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Said al-Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai. The exhibition, the first of its kind in the Gulf States, was sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and featured the products of some 120 United Kingdom firms. On the left is the Ruler's son Sheikh Mohammed, the United Arab Emirates, Minister of Defence, while on the right Sir Richard Beaumont, Director-General of the Middle East Association, represents the British Government. The exhibition was situated at inside and outside sites at Dubai's modern airport.

Queen's flying visit to Dubai exhibition

The Queen and Prince Philip toured the British Building and Construction Equipment Exhibition at Dubai unexpectedly en route home from their visits to the Far East and expressed great interest and approval of what they saw. They were accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Said al-Maktoum, together with Sheikh Mohammed, Minister of Defence, and Mr. Donal McCarthy, HM Ambassador.

The exhibition, 16-23 March, sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, proved to be the most successful commercial promotion held in the United Arab Emirates. Practically all the heavy equipment displayed has been sold – including a £20,000 loading shovel purchased by the Ruler of Dubai.

Total off-the-counter sales are approximately £350,000. Initial orders are over £1.5 million and sales are still being negotiated after the close of the exhibition. Many exhibitors who were previously unrepresented in Dubai have now appointed agents and all 120 exhibitors have expressed satisfaction with their participation in this British joint venture.

Buyers examine merchandise on a British stand at last month's International Leathergoods Fair.

Brussels sprouts constructive ideas for building industry

From R. W. James, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Brussels: The annual Batibouw exhibition and the biennial Euroclima show were held this year at the same time. The well-established British presence at the former was maintained with a joint-venture of 10 companies under the sponsorship of BOTB and the Building Materials Export Group.

The construction industry in Belgium is directly responsible for the employment of some 300,000 and has a total annual turnover of somewhere near £2,400 million. It is therefore the country's biggest employer and the second largest in turnover and, although the industry itself is very largely in Belgian hands, there are excellent opportunities for foreign manufacturers of the whole range of the materials it uses. The year 1973 saw a record number of bankruptcies in construction. The generally pessimistic forecasts for economic growth for 1974 are likely to be reflected in the industry. They were certainly reflected at Batibouw 1-10 March which was quieter than usual.

Nevertheless, there was no atmosphere of gloom on the British stand, the design of which was again the subject of favourable comment. Bolton Gate made good new contacts for its folding shutter doors, as did British Screw with its fasteners for roofing and cladding. Newcomer Arthur Shaw exhibited three products from its main range of window hardware for housing and offices. It was generally pleased with this first participation. Savage and Parsons had fewer but generally better contacts than last year.

Rank Pullin Controls which makes specialised surveying equipment is in a similar position. William Kenyon's fire protection for structural steelwork has been approved by Ghent University which is facilitating this penetration of the Belgian market. Granwood Floorings, appearing for the first time, has already secured two big contracts in the Liège area for indoor sports flooring. Dom Holdings (Building fixings and masonry drills), Hydro-Air (roof trussings) and F. Wrighton (fitted kitchens) completed another generally successful British presence.

Conex Sanbra Ltd. at Euroclima (1-6 March) is making excellent progress in the Belgian market and was convinced that participation would be well repaid.

Leather weathers a poor patch in German trade

From M. T. Murray, Commercial Section, British Consulate-General, Frankfurt/Main: The 50th Offenbach International Leathergoods Fair took place 2-7 March. Once again, Britain was well represented with 15 firms participating in a joint venture organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Leathergoods Manufacturers Association which also ran an information stand.

Although the German leathergoods industry is going through a relatively poor patch, British exhibitors found that years of steady work at Offenbach continue to pay off. They reported good business with Austria, the Scandinavian countries, the United States and Canada.

The British contingent generally declared themselves satisfied with the fair: firms representing all sectors of the industry spoke of orders as much as 20 to 25 per cent higher than those taken at the fair last spring. One British firm, which displayed an impressive range of small leathergoods in a leather which looks like washed-out denim, found itself the centre of a good deal of interest from both European and American buyers.

An interesting trend, perhaps highlighting the increasing concentration of retailing, was that British companies booked fewer but generally larger orders. Despite the higher raw material costs of leather and synthetics, British manufacturers found the currency position gave them a useful price advantage over their continental competitors.

An encouraging development – one which can scarcely be over-emphasised – was that British firms now seem to be increasingly aware that buyers in the highly competitive German market have to be visited between fairs.

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Missions and Tours

British Hospitals Export Council mission to the USA: members and guests at a briefing in the Rotunda of the British Embassy in Washington.

Medical device manufacturers learn about new US legislation

From C. B. Wilson, Commercial Dept., British Embassy, Washington: British Hospitals Export Council mission to USA, 11-20 March: This 18-member mission, supported by the British Overseas Trade Board, started with a day in Washington. The members then split up for individual itineraries in accordance with their individual marketing objectives. A number of them spent a day in presentations to the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

The Washington day began with a morning briefing at the British Embassy by senior members of the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Veterans' Administration and other US government agencies. This was followed by a series of afternoon presentations by mission members to an influential American audience from government and the health care industry.

The mission included 13 medical equipment manufacturers, three firms offering hospital management and design services, the Director of Industries and Exports Branch of the Department of Health and Social Security and the Director of the British Hospitals Export Council.

A spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration described forthcoming legislation which provides for 'pre-market clearance' of medical devices under which the safety of the product would have to be demonstrated before entry into the market. Medical equipment manufacturers will be required to adopt practices which ensure quality control and to issue clear instructions to users of their products.

From the Veterans' Administration the mission learned that the agency spends over $500 million annually on equipment for the 170 hospitals it operates. Its practice of purchasing for a group of hospitals ensures that British manufacturers whose products it buys despite the application of the 'Buy American' regulations (the 'Buy American' Act requires that bids from foreign firms to supply the requirements of civil government agencies be subject to the addition of 6 per cent or, if the US bidder is classified as a small business or is located in an area of unemployment, of 12 per cent of the amount of the foreign bid) receive exceptionally large orders. In fact, a member of bid invitations were made on the spot.

Talks given by mission members in the afternoon included graphic presentations of the work of International Computers Ltd. on the use of computers in health care and of the work of Scientific Control Systems Ltd. on automation in hospital management. Lord Winterbottom, chairman of Venesta International Ltd., described his group's modular operating theatres.

It was generally agreed that the day's programme had served both to impress American health care authorities with the capabilities of British industry in the medical and hospital equipment field and to provide mission members with information and introductions extremely useful in their pursuit of market opportunities.

UK group studies Hong Kong homes

A mission consisting of 14 representatives of the British construction industry and builders' suppliers visited Hong Kong earlier this month, studying the opportunities for applying British quick building and labour saving techniques and equipment to Hong Kong's massive public building programme in which homes for 1.5 million people will be constructed during the next 10 years.

They also looked at opportunities for services, techniques and equipment in the extensive public works programme of civil engineering and in the private sector on high rise commercial and residential buildings and hotels.

Arrangements for the mission were worked out in close co-operation with the Hong Kong authorities: they included briefing sessions by the Housing Department and Public Works Department and visits to some of the major development sites.

G. A. Byard, leader of the mission, reports that the mission's visit had been 'very useful and productive'. He continued: 'We have now had the opportunity to see at close hand the size and nature of the problems faced by the authorities here in Hong Kong's special conditions. We also have a closer understanding of Hong Kong's needs – to speed planning and building times, to keep costs to a minimum and economise on labour, yet at the same time erect more dwellings and raise standards.'

Middle East tour stimulates exports

The sales manager of one of Britain's leading industrial fastenings stockists, Alder Miles Druce, is making a six-week tour of the Middle East to boost export sales – already running well above last year.

Ivan Aldersley is visiting existing petrochemical and petroleum industry customers in Iran, the Gulf States, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon 5 March-13 April. He also expects to pick up new business.

Alder states that until a few years ago, UK industrial fastenings stockists did very little exporting. Alder, with £1 million worth of stocks covering 20,000 items, is one of the stockists to have taken the initiative in exploiting the large export market in industrial fastenings, it is reported.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as exports are concerned, is available from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY—Corrections: The texts of the following corrigenda to Regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

General. The *Official Journal* L63, 5 March 1974 contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 3450/73:

Article 1 (new Article 4 (b) paragraph 2)
instead of:
2 As regards eggs, poultry meat, ovalbumin and lactalbumin, the effects of the measures referred in paragraph 1 shall be taken into account up to the expiry of the 1973/74 marketing year.
read:
2 As regards eggs, poultry meat, ovalbumin and lactalbumin, the effects of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 shall be taken into account up to the expiry of the 1973/74 marketing year for the cereals sector.

Beef and veal. The *Official Journal* L63, 5 March 1974, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 181/73:

Article 12 (2) should read as follows:
2 If compensatory amount is fixed for a product and the refund, if fixed at all, is lower than this compensatory amount, then, when the product in question is exported to a third country, provision may be made for a levy in the new Member State concerned of an amount not exceeding the difference between the compensatory amount and the refund or, as the case may be, the compensatory amount.

Milk and milk products. The *Official Journal* L63, 5 March 1974, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 233/73:

Article 4 should read as follows:
Article 4
Where for a particular product, a compensatory amount is fixed which is to be deducted from the refund on exports to third countries, and the refund is less than the compensatory amount, or no refund is applicable, provision may be made for a levy in the new Member States in question, when the particular product is exported to third countries, of an amount not exceeding the difference between the compensatory amount and the refund or, where applicable, the compensatory amount.

Poultry and poultrymeat. The *Official Journal* L74, 19 March 1974 contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 988/73:

Article 1 (1), line 4: Instead of '4.38', read '4.33'.
Article 1 (2) line 4: Instead of '3.048', read '4.048'.

EEC/TURKEY AGREEMENT: *Trade and Industry*, 14 February 1974 (page 275), contained a notice about Regulation (EEC) 3574/73 on the total or partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey which was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L359, 28 December 1973.

The *Official Journal* L63, 5 March 1974 contains the following corrections to Annex A of Regulation (EEC) 3574/73:

CCT heading No. 02.04: instead of 'B', read 'ex B'
CCT heading No. 07.04: ex B should read:
'B Other
Mushrooms, dried, dehydrated or evaporated excluding cultivated mushrooms
Horse-radish (Cochleavia armoracia)'
CCT heading No. 15.13: to be deleted
CCT heading No. 16.04: instead of 'ex F Bonito (Sarda sp.p), mackerel and anchovies' read 'ex F Bonito (Sarda sp.p) and mackerel'.
CCT heading No. 20.07 B 11 (b) 4 (aa) last column: instead of '14%', read '14% + (L)'

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

UNCTAD GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES—Corrections: *Trade and Industry*, 7 February 1974 (page 231), and 21 February (page 324), contained details of a number of Regulations and Decisions setting up tariff quotas within the framework of the Generalised System of Preferences. Corrections to the texts of certain of these Regulations and Decisions have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as follows:

Official Journal L67, 9 March 1974:
Regulation (EEC) 3501/73. The text for heading No. 43.02 in Annex A should be replaced by:
'43.02 Furskins, tanned or dressed, including furskins assembled in plates, crosses and similar forms; pieces or cuttings, of furskin, tanned or dressed, including heads, paws, tails and the like (not being fabricated)'

Regulation (EEC) 3504/73:
Romania should be deleted from the countries listed in Annex B

Regulation (EEC) 3508/73:
Romania should be added, after Qatar, to the countries listed in Annex A

Decision 73/444/ECSC:
The text for heading No. 73.16 D in Annex A should be amended to read:
D— Fish-plates and sole plates:
I. Rolled.

Regulation (EEC) 3578/73:
The text for heading No. 61.03 in the Annex should be amended to read:
61.03 Men's and boys' under garments, including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs:
—In cotton fabric

Official Journal L74, 19 March 1974.
Regulation (EEC) 3500/73. The footnote referring to Order No. 15, column (5) of Annex A should be amended to read: '(1) Pursuant to Article 2 (2) this share is increased by 22 million u.a.'.

IMPORTS FROM NON-MEMBER STATES: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L76, 21 March 1974, contains the text of Decision 74/136/EEC authorising Italy not to apply Community treatment to diodes falling within heading No. 85.21 ex D of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation in Germany.

Common Market Law of Competition

by CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY, M.A.(OXON.) *at the Middle Temple and Gray's Inn, and of the South Eastern Circuit, Barrister*
and GRAHAM CHILD, M.A.(OXON.) *Solicitor of the Supreme Court*
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Trade Information

Imports from the German Democratic Republic: quota arrangements for 1974

Quotas for the import into the United Kingdom during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1974 of goods from the German Democratic Republic which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

Quota no.	Tariff heading	Description	Value £'000 cif or quantity
1	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	12.5
2		Gloves, the following:	
	ex 39.07	Plastic gloves	
	ex 40.13	Rubber gloves	
	ex 42.03	Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur	15
	ex 43.03	Gloves of furskin	
	ex 60.02	Gloves knitted to shape or crocheted to shape, not elastic nor rubberised	
	ex 61.10	Gloves of woven cotton or flax	
3		Fabrics of man-made fibres, the following:	
	51.04 56.07	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres	248,600 sq. metres (a)
	ex 60.01	Knitted or crocheted fabrics of man-made fibres	
4	ex 53.11	Woven fabrics of wool or fine animal hair or fabrics in which wool or fine animal hair represents 50 per cent or more by weight	332.5
5		Woven fabrics and made-up textile articles of flax, the following:	
	ex 54.05	Woven fabrics of flax other than tea towelling	5
	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen (other than tea towels), curtains and other furnishing articles of woven flax	
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven flax *excluding those made up from narrow fabrics*	
6		Stockings and socks, the following:	
	ex 60.03 ex 61.10	of knitted cotton, man-made fibres or wool of woven cotton	12.5 (a)
7		Apparel (of which not more than £70,000 for stocking tights and not more than £37,700 for woven cotton garments), the following:	
	ex 60.04	Under garments of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres or wool	312.5 (a)
	ex 60.05	Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	
	ex 61.01 ex 61.02 ex 61.03 ex 61.04	Outer garments of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax Under garments of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.06	Shawls and other articles falling within 61.06 of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.09	Corsets and other articles falling within 61.09 of woven cotton	
8		Travelling rugs and blankets *other than electric blankets* (of which not more than £15,605 for those made of cotton or of man-made fibres including a maximum of £10,605 for those made of cotton), the following:	
	ex 60.05 ex 62.01	of knitted or crocheted cotton or man-made fibres of woven cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	35
9	ex 62.02	Table mats of man-made fibres	10
10	ex 62.04	Woven cotton tents	8
11	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £115,000 for ornamental ware)	270
12	ex 69.11 ex 69.13	Meissen porcelain	40
13	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio broadcast receivers and transistorised radiograms	90
14	ex 85.15	Transistorised television broadcast receivers with screens of 18 inches and over in size (b)	60
15	ex 85.21	Electronic valves, tubes and semi-conductors	140

(a) These quotas include special import facilities, to the following values, which are valid for 1974 only and might not necessarily be available for the 1975 quota year:
Quota No. 3: 13,200 sq. metres
Quota No. 6: £2,500
Quota No. 7: £32,500
(b) The reference to screen size is to the diagonal measurement

UK and GDR agreement: text published

The agreement signed on 18 December 1973 between the United Kingdom and the German Democratic Republic for economic, industrial, scientific and technological co-operation was published on 27 March 1974 as Cmnd. 5552. Copies are obtainable from HMSO, price 9p.

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ECGD news

☐ Belfast-built £9m bulk carrier for Norway

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £7.2 million loan by Hambros Bank on behalf of Midland Bank for the purchase of a £9 million diesel bulk carrier of 117,800 tdw by Interessentskapet Essi Camilla of Norway. The ship will be managed by the Norwegian company, BJ Rudd Pedersen.

The vessel, which will be built by Harland & Wolff at Belfast, is scheduled for delivery in March 1975.

☐ Portainer cranes for Jamaica

The ECGD has backed a £1.04 million loan by Lazard Brothers to the Port Authority of Kingston, Jamaica, for the purchase of two Portainer cranes, contract value £1.17 million.

The cranes will be supplied by Vickers and will be manufactured at the Scotswood Works, Newcastle, of the company's engineering group. The cranes will handle containers 40 ft. long and 40 tons in weight. An unusual feature of the cranes is that they are self-contained by having their own diesel driven generators for electrical power. The cranes are manufactured under licence from Paceco International of California.

The loan was negotiated by Lazards on behalf of Williams & Glyn's Bank.

☐ New hotel for Seychelles

The ECGD has insured the equity and loan investment of £1.269 million being contributed by four British banks in Jasmin Hotels Ltd., which is building a 184-bedroom hotel at Beau Vallon on the island of Mahé, Seychelles.

The hotel is being constructed by French Kier Holdings Ltd. and their subsidiary W. and C. French (Seychelles) Ltd. and will open in the middle of this year.

Finance for the hotel totalling £1.87 million was arranged by Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd. on behalf of French Kier Holdings, County Bank Ltd., Midland Bank Finance Corporation Ltd., Williams Glyn and Co., Drayton Group and the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

Robert Fell (right), secretary of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, welcomes Dr. H. H. Haschek, of Austria, president of the Berne Union, to the ECGD headquarters, where the union's management committee met on 27-29 March. The committee discussed new statutes to enable the union to deal with investment guarantee matters as well as credit insurance. The ECGD was one of four founder members in 1934 and the union now has 30 members from 24 countries. Mr. Fell is vice-president. The aim of the union is to 'work for the international acceptance of sound principles of export credit insurance and maintenance of discipline in the terms of credit for international trade'.

☐ Gold extracting plant for Venezuela

A loan of £2.3 million by Lazard Brothers for a gold ore dressing plant in Venezuela has been guaranteed by the ECGD. The loan, which Lazards negotiated on behalf of Barclays Bank, was with the Compania General de Mineria de Venezuela CA (Minerven).

Head Wrightson Process Engineering Ltd., Teesside, is responsible for the design and supply of the plant. Supervising of services in connection with erection and commissioning will be undertaken by a subsidiary of Head Wrightson in Venezuela. It is estimated the plant will be commissioned in March 1977. Gold ore is to be supplied from the 'Colombia' mine in the State of Bolivar.

Bilateral trade agreements

Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

A trade and payments agreement between Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was concluded on 9 September 1973. It remains in force for one year and will be extended automatically unless either country declares its cancellation. Lists of goods exchangeable have been agreed upon and import and export quotas fixed. A translation of the text of the agreement is available to British exporters on request.

EDB ext. 475/420

Greece and Hungary

The validity of the trade protocol between Greece and Hungary signed on 5 February 1971 has been extended for another year until 31 December 1974. Copies of the protocol and lists of goods exchangeable (in French) can be seen at OTAR section Export Data Branch, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248-5757 ext. 420/475).

EDB ext. 420/475

Tunisia and Switzerland

The trade agreement between Tunisia and Switzerland, signed on 2 December 1961, has been extended for a further year from 1 January 1974. Inquiries from British exporters should be addressed to OTAR section, Export Data Branch.

EDB ext. 458/459/460/461

Czechoslovakia and Tunisia

It has been announced in the Tunisian *Official Journal*, 19 February 1974, that lists of products to be exchanged under this agreement covering the year 1974-75, have been agreed. Details in French are available to British exporters.

EDB ext. 466/467/288

Nigeria: Banking Obligations (Eastern States) Decree 1970

The Banking Obligations (Eastern States) Decree 1970 made by the Federal Military Government of Nigeria on 30 December 1970 provided in effect that sums paid by customers into banks in the Eastern States during the period 31 May 1967 to 12 January 1970 (inclusive) should be paid by the banks to the Central Bank of Nigeria to be used by the Federal Government for post-war reconstruction.

The Department of Trade wishes to have information on cases where, as a result of the Decree, firms and persons in the UK have been unable to obtain remittance of payment for goods and services which were supplied on or before 30 May 1967 and where payment into a local bank was made after that date.

The Department is already aware of a number of such cases. Firms and persons concerned who have not already given details of their cases to the Department or to Export Credits Guarantee Department are invited to send details as soon as possible and in any case not later than 26 April 1974 to CRE 4 Division, Department of Trade, Room 339, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1.

The following information is requested: name and address of Nigerian customer or client, amount of claim, description of goods or services, date of shipment of goods or provision of services, date of payment into local bank, name and address of local bank, what representations (if any) have been made to the Nigerian authorities in respect of the claim.

The information is required for further approaches to the Nigerian authorities on the effects of the Decree on British creditors.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 18 April.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: 01-222 7877); and Export Data Branch (EDB), Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (CRE or EDB) and the appropriate telephone extension number. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
07.05	Beans, dried, white (including haricot) other than butter, for use in the production of canned baked bean products	Dried white beans	31 December 1974	14839
28.16	Ammonia, anhydrous	as in previous column	31 December 1974	15062
29.15	Maleic anhydride	as in previous column	31 December 1974	10674
31.02	Urea containing more than 45 per cent by weight of nitrogen on the dry anhydrous product	Urea	31 December 1974	14920
73.27	Reinforcing fabric, of iron or steel wire, welded and in rectangular sheets weighing not less than 1.5 kg/m²	Reinforcement fabrics	31 December 1974	14841
85.21	Cathode-ray tubes for use in television receivers having a bulb diagonal dimension of 310 mm nominal and a neck diameter of 20 mm. The tubes to to have uni-potential electrostatic focusing and magnetic beam deflection over an angle of 110 degrees. The base will be as JEDEC E7-91 with connections as JEDEC 7GR and the bulb contact connection will be as JEDEC J1-21. An implosion protection band is to be fitted	Television tubes	30 June 1975	14984

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Algeria and Venezuela have been published in the 'Hints to business men' series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets on application to Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146) or to any Regional Office of the Department of Industry.

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Tariff and Trade Notices

Iceland

Sales tax increased

The Icelandic Government has announced an increase in sales tax on goods and services including all imports from 13 per cent to 17 per cent (14.3 per cent to 18.7 per cent if the importer is the end user). Effective from 25 March, the increased rates are being levied to offset commensurate reductions in income tax. **EDB ext. 460/461**

Spain

Calcium nitrate: duty suspended

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 22 March 1974, announced the suspension of import duty on calcium nitrate, tariff heading 31.02.C, until 21 June 1974. **EDB ext. 462/471/472/473**

Portugal

Motor vehicles: price control

Portuguese *Diario do Governo* No. 41 published Order 123/74 of 18 February 1974 making subject to the controls envisaged in Decree Law 196/72 of 12 June 1972 the selling price of light goods and passenger vehicles. The Order took immediate effect. Unofficial translations of both the Order and Decree Law are available.

EDB ext. 460/461

Yugoslavia

Industrial equipment: duty reduced

The Yugoslav *Official Gazette* has reported that the import duties on specific equipment used in a number of production processes have been changed to 5 per cent. The new rates will apply until 31 December 1975. The following tariff numbers are affected:

84.03/4	84.10/2	84.10/3	84.10/5	84.10/7	84.11/2	84.11/5
84.13/1a	84.13/1b	84.14/4c	84.16/1	84.17/1d	84.17/1j	84.19/2
84.19/8	84.20/1	84.21/4g	84.22/5e	84.23/4a	84.23/4b	84.23/12
84.31/3	84.45/1c-4	84.46/1	84.46/2	84.46/5	84.46/10	84.47/12
84.49/1	84.56/3	84.56/4	84.56/5	84.56/7	84.59/2m	84.60/2
85.05/5	85.19/5	87.02/3c-1 up to 3		87.03/11	90.22/3	90.24
90.25	90.28					

However, the reduced import rates for specific equipment used in the production of polyamide fibres (see *Trade and Industry*, 21 June 1973), vynyl chloride, pvc in powder (see *Trade and Industry*, 7 June 1973), and equipment used in forestry (also *Trade and Industry*, 7 June 1973) will now only apply until 31 December 1975.

EDB ext. 466/467/288

Greece

Pharmaceutical law

Copies are available on loan of the new Greek Pharmaceutical Law which encompasses dietetic foods, cosmetics, and some therapeutic machines and accessories, as well as pharmaceuticals.

EDB ext. 420/475

Israel

Purchase tax amendments

The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the Purchase Tax Order which affect the following items:

Fabrics of jute
Parts for fluorescent lamps other than lampshades
Isocyanates
Smoking pipe stands
Electric current protective disconnectors
Mini-offset printing presses
Articles of regenerated cellulose used as absorbent cloths for cleaning
Taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, barrels, etc., hand operated and parts; floats for regulating water flow
Toilet preparations

British exporters with inquiries should specify the items in which they are interested. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Standards

The Standards Institution of Israel has issued standards for the following goods. They were all declared official on 7 March and compliance with them will become obligatory 60 days from that date.

IS 70	Refillable containers for liquified hydrocarbon gases (commercial petroleum gases)
IS 372	Pin driven guns: safety requirements
IS 373	Electric cables, cords and insulated conductors for nominal voltages to 1,000 volts: general requirements

The Standards Institution of Israel issues English translations of these standards and copies may be obtained from British Standards Institution Library, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000, telex 266933). British exporters requiring technical advice on compliance with the standards are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (tel. 0442 3111, telex 82424). **EDB ext. 420/475**

Dangerous drugs regulations: psychotropic substances

The Pharmaceutical Department of the Israeli Ministry of Health has amended the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (New Version) 1973 in respect of psychotropic substances. Copies of these regulations, known

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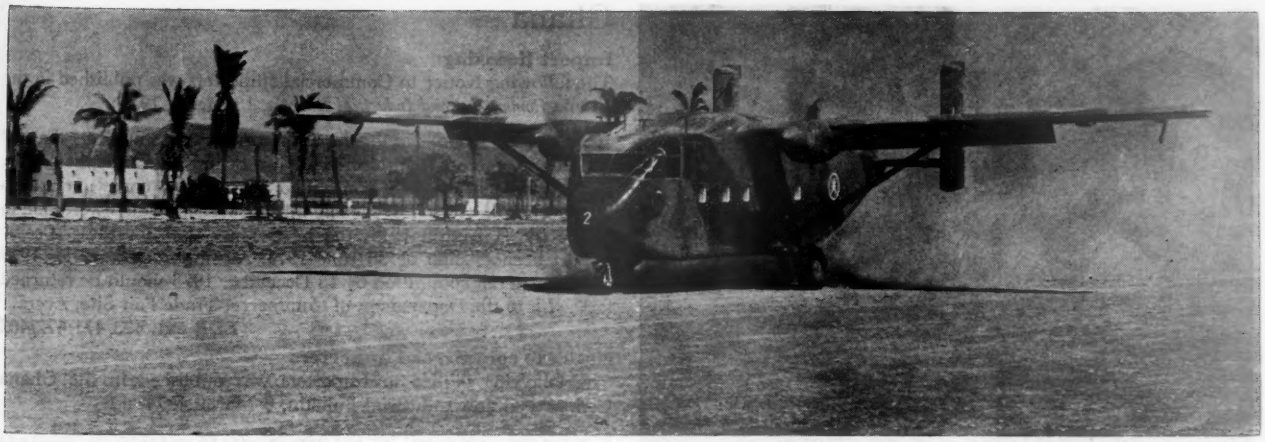
Registered trade marks

The lists of Tariff, Customs and Import Regulations changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.



With the announcement of a £2 million fourth repeat order for the Short Skyvan STOL transport aircraft from the Sultan of Oman's Air Force, the export total of the aircraft stands at 100, purchased by 37 operators in 23 countries. The robust construction and STOL performance capabilities allow the Sykvan to operate under exacting conditions. The wide-bodied hold provides an adaptable and cost-effective unit for passenger and freight transport. The aircraft is made by Short Brothers & Harland, Belfast.

as the Dangerous Drugs (Psychotropic Substances Amendment) Regulations 1974, are available to British exporters on request.

EDB ext. 420/475

Vehicle safety regulations

The Ministry of Transport has issued an internal order giving notice of new vehicle safety regulations affecting private cars, taxis, commercial vehicles under 2,200 kg and tourist vehicles. The regulations took effect on 1 April 1974. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Standard for concrete reinforcement

The Israeli authorities have issued an order on the standardisation of rods for the reinforcement of concrete. Details are available.

EDB ext. 420/475

Syria

Exchange control regulations eased

The Syrian Government has issued two official resolutions, 172 and 173 of 7 March 1974, which lift restrictions on the import and export of foreign currency and enable importers in the private sector to pay for imported goods in foreign currency. Further information, in French, is available. **CRE ext. 3508**

Iran

New import and export regulations

New import and export regulations have been announced for the Iranian year 21 March 1974 to 20 March 1975. These include:

Reductions in commercial profit tax on certain items.

Reduction in import registration fees from 5½ per cent to 1 per cent subject to parliamentary legislation.

Relaxation of import restrictions on certain items.

Full details will be published when available. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Electric blankets: import permitted

The Iranian Ministry of Economy has announced that the import of blankets, mattresses, pillows and textiles 'which are heated by electric power' is now authorised **EDB ext. 475/420**

Saudi Arabia

Horses: import ban

A proposal put up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water in April 1973 to ban the importation of horses into Saudi Arabia, in order to protect the purity of the local species, has been authorised and was put into effect on 24 January 1974.

Mango yellow powder banned

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced a ban on the following colouring product: Mango yellow powder H 6794 containing ponceau MX.

Empty sacks exempt from duty

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy has approved and implemented a proposal to exempt from custom duty imported empty sacks used for packing bulk wheat, provided that they are kept in the customs area and that they are taken when needed under customs control. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Tunisia

Nitrogenised chemical fertilisers: provisional suspension of duty

The Tunisian *Official Journal*, 1 March 1974, announced the provisional suspension of import duty on the following nitrogenised chemical fertilisers:

BN no.	
ex 28.30	Ammonium chloride
ex 28.58	Calcium cyanamide containing more than 25% nitrogen
ex 29.25	Urea containing more than 45% by weight of nitrogen in dry state
31.02	Mineral or chemical fertilisers containing 33.5% nitrogen or less

In order to claim the nil rate of duty the Tunisian importer is required to complete a special form. Copies of the form (in French) are available to British exporters on request. **EDB ext. 475/420**

Ivory Coast

Mercurial values

The tables of mercurial values for certain products have now been completed by the Ivory Coast authorities. Chapter headings 18, 44 and 51 are affected. **EDB ext. 462/471/472/473**

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. 01-222 7877

EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757

Amazing success . . . Export sales are increasing for the Cobmaster pedal-powered maize sheller pictured in operation in Kenya. Since its introduction a year ago the Cobmaster has reached the maize growing regions of East and West Africa and South America. In Nigeria instruction leaflets have been supplied in several languages. Output is up to 2,000 lb. an hour, and the ingenious machine is also available in hand-powered and motor-driven versions. The cobmaster is designed jointly by Ransomes Sims and Jeferies, Ipswich, and R. Hunt and Co., Earls Colne, Essex

Sierra Leone

Customs tariff amendments

Public Notice No. 8 of 1974 published in the *Sierra Leone Gazette*, 28 February 1974, amends Part A of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act 1968 with effect from 23 January as follows:

Tariff no.	Tariff description	Rate of duty
71.04	Dust and powder of natural or synthetic precious or semi-precious stones	
	A Imported by Sierra Leone Diamond Ltd. for use in the manufacture and polishing of rough and uncut diamonds	25%
	B Other	36¼%
49.03	Children's picture books and painting books:	
	A Work books	Free
	B Other	36¼%

EDB ext. 473/471/472/462

Ghana

Import licensing

The following Notice to Commercial Importers was published in the Ghana *Commercial and Industrial Bulletin*, 15 March 1974:

It is hereby announced for the information of all importers that for all letters of credit established on or before 15 December 1973, and import licences fully committed for goods to come under bills of collection in respect of specific import licences which were due to expire by 31 March 1974, the new expiry date for these specific import licences shall be 30 June 1974. All import licences for 1973 which were not committed by 15 December 1973 should be returned forthwith to the Department of Commerce, Trade Fair Site, Accra.

EDB ext. 473/471/472/462

Notice to commercial importers

The following Notice to Importers was published in the Ghana Commercial and Industrial Bulletin, 8 March 1974:

It is hereby announced for the information of commercial importers that the Director of Import Programme of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism intends to prepare a current list together with the present addresses of all registered importers.

2 In this connection all registered importers are requested to provide the following information:

a Postal address of the company, including telephone number if any

b Address of the head office indicating the street, house number and town

c Addresses of other branches indicating the street, house number and town including telephone number if any:

3 The above particulars should reach the Director at the Trade Fair Site, not later than Friday, 15 March 1974.

4 Any importer who fails to submit the above information will have his/her name removed from the list of registered importers.

EDB ext. 473/471/472/462

Nigeria

Promotion of Nigerian enterprises

A notice in *Trade and Industry* 16 March 1972 (page 467) gave details of the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree 1972—Decree No. 4. Decree No. 7 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette*, 7 March 1974 amends Decree No. 4 with effect from 23 February as follows:

a in Schedule 1 to the Decree, for item 12 there shall be substituted a new item as follows:
'12. Haulage by road of goods other than petroleum products.';

b in Schedule 2 to the Decree, immediately after item 13, there shall be inserted a new item as follows:
'13A Haulage by road of petroleum products.'

CRE ext. 3064/3338

Cape Verde Islands

Photographic and photo-copying apparatus: duty changes

Portuguese *Diario do Governo*, First Series, No. 41 of 18 February 1974, published decree 62/74 amending duty rates on BN 90.10 (apparatus and equipment of a kind used in photographic or cinematographic laboratories, not elsewhere specified, photo-copying apparatus and thermo-copying apparatus; screens for projectors) of the import tariff of the Cape Verde Islands to 12 per cent. No further information is available.

EDB ext. 460/461

South Africa

Farm feeds

Government Gazette No. 4231 of 22 March (Notice 439) carries details of proposed new regulations under the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 1947, which concern the registration, importation, manufacture, movement and sale of farm feeds and the registration of sterilising plants. Representations concerning these proposals should be made, before 19 April, to the Secretary, Agricultural Technical Services, Private Bag, X116, Pretoria 0001.

CRE ext. 5274

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(Please tick)

Name_____

Address_____

TI 4/74

Refunds of customs duties

Schedule 5

Item 531.00—The extent of refund in respect of goods which have been destroyed in unavoidable circumstances is now the full duty.

EDB ext. 471/472/473/462

Thailand

Automobiles Act

An English translation of the Thailand Automobiles Act BE 2473 (AD1930) and amendments has been received, together with ministerial regulations issued under the Act. Regulations cover the construction, size and use of vehicles. Details of the automobile taxes in Thailand are given in the Emergency Decree BE 2516 (1973) which amends the Automobiles Act and came into force on 1 January 1974. Copies are available on loan. **EDB ext. 401/468/469**

Australia

Earthmoving, construction and materials handling equipment etc: tariff changes

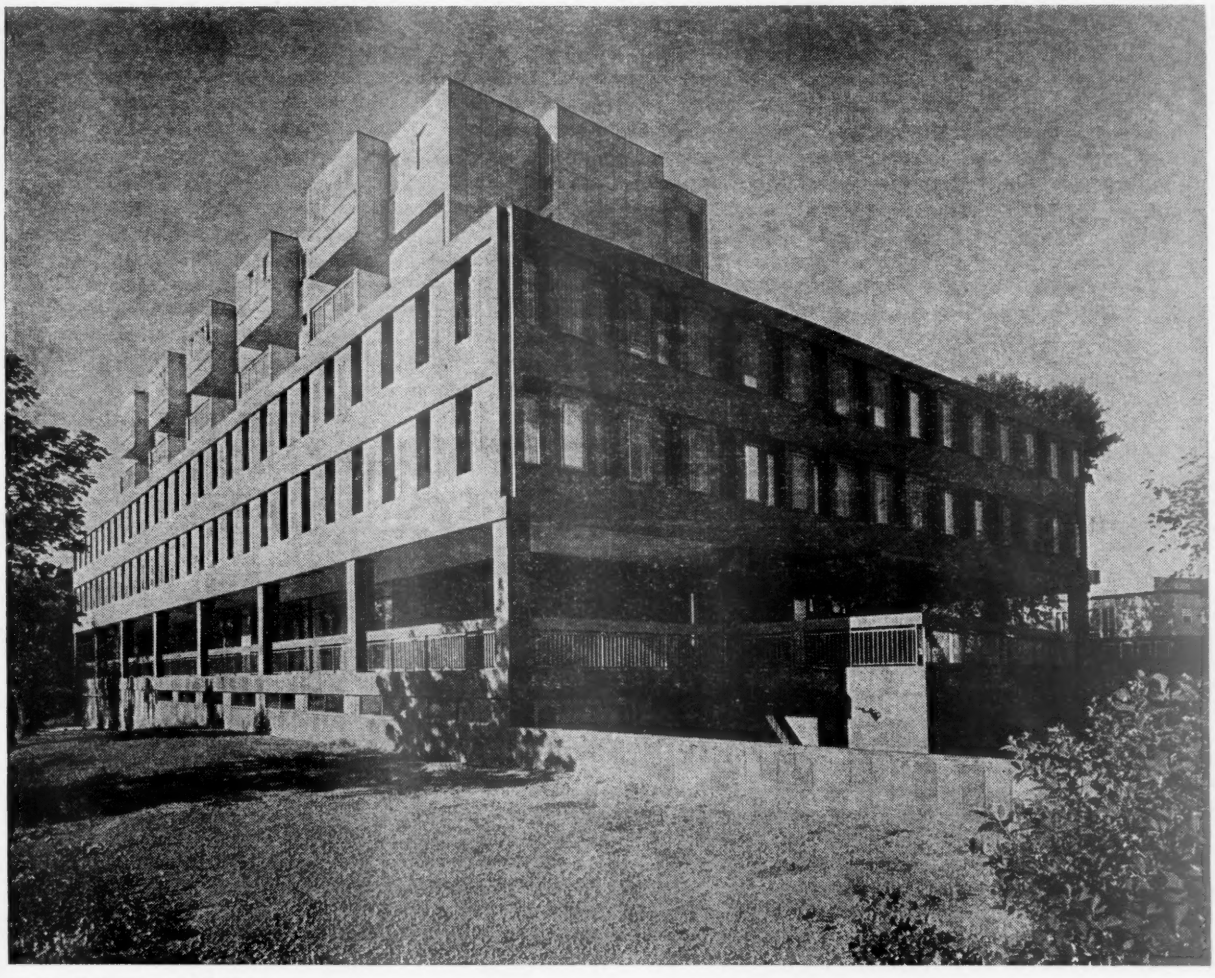
Details are given below of changes made in the Australian customs tariff by customs tariff proposals No. 5 (1974) which came into effect on 7 March 1974 and include those consequent upon the Tariff Board inquiry into earthmoving construction and materials handling equipment, etc.

ALTERATIONS TO PART II OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE CUSTOMS TARIFF 1966-73

Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty: General	Rates of duty: Preferential
1	In sub-item 29.02.1, after '1,2-dichloroethane;' insert '1,1,1-trichloroethane;'		
2	Omit sub-item 82.04.1, substitute the following sub-item:		
82.04.1	Goods, as follows: a chisels, coopers; b chisels, wood carving; c chisels, wood turning; d hammers, having a head weight of not less than 1.8 kg per hammer; e planes, woodworking, with bodies other than of metal	5.625%	Free
3	Omit note 9 to Chapter 84, substitute the following note:		
	9 The following components are specified for the purposes of sub-paragraphs 84.22.519, 84.22.591, 84.22.599 and 84.23.311 and paragraph 84.23.39: a buckets; b dippers; c grabs; d grapples; e shovels; and f other attachments of a kind similar to those specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) (inclusive), that are used for the loading, excavating or picking up of goods or materials, as determined by the Minister		
4	In sub-item 84.06.6 omit '87.07.3', substitute '87.07.9'		
5	Omit item 84.09, substitute the following item:		
84.09	* Mechanically propelled road rollers	30%	30%
6	In sub-item 84.10.1 omit '87.07.3', substitute '87.07.9'		
7	In paragraph 84.18.61 omit '87.07.3', substitute '87.07.9'		
8	Omit sub-item 84.22.2 to 84.22.9 (inclusive), substitute the following sub-items:		
84.22.2	Hoists and pulley tackle; winches:		
84.22.21	Pneumatically operated	Free	Free
84.22.22	Electrically operated; manually operated spur gear type	40%	40%
84.22.23	Hydraulic hoists of the kind used in garages for lifting motor vehicles	35%	35%
84.22.29	Other	30%	30%
84.22.3	Balancing equipment, overhead, for use with portable hand tools; pushers or feeders for rotary and percussive rock drills	6%	Free
84.22.4	Cranes, not being goods falling within a preceding sub-item of this item; lifting jacks; lifting devices for tipping lorries:		
84.22.41	Mobile cranes (other than crawler mounted, two-wheel drive tractor mounted or over-head travelling cranes); cranes designed for mounting as mobile cranes; cranes designed for mounting on vehicles as truck loading cranes; lifting devices for tipping lorries	35%	35%

British Overseas Trade Board

British commercial representation overseas



British Embassy, Stockholm

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British commercial representation overseas

Business men going abroad

The Commercial Departments of the British Embassies, High Commission Offices and Consulates listed herein can be of considerable help to the British business man travelling abroad on export business. They can assist him with introductions, advice on local conditions and help generally in achieving the purpose of his visit. But they are better able to help if told in advance about the visit, its purpose and the nature of any assistance likely to be required of them. Such advance notification to Commercial Departments is best sent through the Export Services and Promotions Division or a Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry; intending business travellers are advised to contact one or other of these offices (addresses and telephone numbers appear below) at an early stage in arranging visits abroad. These offices will not only notify the visits to the Commercial Departments concerned but can also provide travellers with information about overseas markets before departure.

On arrival overseas the business traveller is advised to telephone the Commercial Department to fix an appointment with the appropriate commercial officer.

'Hints to Business Men' booklets are available for most of the countries listed. British business men who intend visiting any of the countries on export business may obtain copies free of charge from the nearest Regional Office or from Export Services and Promotions Division (Tel. 01-248 5757, Ext. 7146) (Telex 886143).

Poste Restante and Telex facilities: business men visiting overseas markets may, if they wish, have their mail addressed care of the Commercial Department of the British Embassy/High Commission/Consulate in the country they are visiting. This facility is available during normal business hours only and business men intending to use it are requested to give adequate notice to the overseas Commercial Department beforehand, or alternatively advise their nearest Department of Trade and Industry Regional Office or the Export Services and Promotions Division in London. Where public Telex facilities are not freely available, Commercial Departments will, if possible, allow visiting business men who wish urgently to get in touch with their firms to use the post's Telex facilities on a repayment basis.

Services to exporters

The following DTI offices provide services for UK exporters

Headquarters
Export Services and Promotions Division
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional
Office for Scotland
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 DTI GLASGOW

Inverness District Office
Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness, IV1 1LU
Tel. 0463 30867

Office for Wales
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff, CF4 4YL
Tel. 0222 62131. Telex 49267 DTI CARDIFF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office
City House, New Station Street, Leeds, LS1 4JQ
Tel. 0532 38232. Telex 557470 DTI LDS

Northern Regional Office
Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4TR
Tel. 0632 27575. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumberland and Westmorland District Office
Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumberland CA13 9NP
Tel. Cockermouth 3498/9.
Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office
Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office
Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DY
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office
Cranbrook House, 47 Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ES
Tel. 0602 46121. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office
The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. 0272 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce
Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. 0232 34488. Telex 747025 GOVCOMM BELFAST

This list is prepared by the Export Services and Promotions Division of the British Overseas Trade Board and is published quarterly in *Trade and Industry*. Inquiries relating to the list should be made to Export Services and Promotions Division at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 7113).

British commercial representation overseas

NOTE: The * denotes that the entry has been amended since last published in January 1974.

AFGHANISTAN
British Embassy, Karte Parwan, **Kabul.** (Tel. 30511/3.)

ALGERIA
British Embassy, Residence Cassionpée, Batiment B., 7, Chemin de Glycines, **Algiers** (Postal address: B.P.43, Alger Gare). (Tel. 605601/04.) (Telex 52872 a/b PRODROM ALGER.)

ANGOLA
British Consulate-General, Rua Diogo Cao No. 4, Caixa Postal No. 1244, **Luanda.** (Tel. 34583, 22487.) (Telex 3130 a/b BRILDAAN.)

ARGENTINA
British Embassy, Dr. Luis Agote 2412, **Buenos Aires** (Postal address Casilla de Correo 2050, Buenos Aires). (Tel. 80-7071/9.) (Telex 121666 a/b 121666AR PROBA).

AUSTRALIA
British High Commission, Commonwealth Avenue, **Canberra, A.C.T.** (Tel. 730422.) (Telex AA62222 a/b UKREP AA62222.)

***Sydney**—British Consulate-General, Gold Fields House, Sydney Cove, Sydney, Australia 2000, N.S.W. (Tel. 27-7521.) (Telex AA20680 a/b UKREP AA20680.)

Melbourne—British Consulate-General, The Colonial Mutual Life Building, 330 Collins Street, Melbourne C.1, Victoria, Australia 3000. (Tel. 67-7254, 67-8601 (9 lines).) (Telex AA30660 a/b UKREP AA30660.)

Brisbane—British Consulate-General, BP House, 193 North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4000. (Tel. 214933.) (Telex AA40556 a/b UKREP AA40556.)

Perth—British Consulate-General, ANZ House, 7th Floor, 84 St. George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia 6000. (Tel. 21-5128/9). (Telex AA92493 a/b BHCWA AA92493.)

Adelaide—British Consulate-General, 4th Floor, F.C.A. Building, 15 Franklin Street, Adelaide, South Australia 5000. (Tel. 512291.) (Telex AA82543 a/b UKREP AA82543.)

Port Moresby—*see* Papua New Guinea

AUSTRIA
British Embassy, Reisnerstrasse 40, 1030, **Vienna.** (Tel. 731575/9.) (Telex 13410 and 12810 a/b BRITEM A.)

BAHAMAS
British High Commission, Bitco Building, Third Floor, Bank Lane, **Nassau.** (Postal address: PO Box 7516, Nassau.) (Tel. 7471/4 (Area Code 809325).) (Telex NS 112 a/b UKREP, Nassau.)

***BAHRAIN**
British Embassy, Al Mathaf Square, Manama, **Bahrain** (Postal address: P.O. Box 114, Bahrain.) (Prodrome, Bahrain.) (Tel. 4002.) (Telex GJ8213 a/b 8213 PRODRO GJ.)

BANGLADESH
British High Commission, D.I.T. Building Annexe, **Dilkusha** (P.O. Box 90), Dacca-2 (UKMIS DACCA) (Tel. 243251-3, 244216-7.)

BARBADOS
British High Commission, 147/9 Roebuck Street (P.O. Box 676c). **Bridgetown.** (Tel. 63525.) (Telex WB219 a/b UKREP, BRI WB 219.)

Important

The information given in this list is intended for the benefit of exporters travelling abroad. All commercial inquiries should be addressed initially to the nearest Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry, or to Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7HU (Tel. 01-248 5757) (Telex 886143). A great deal of overseas commercial information is on record and can be supplied immediately.

BELGIUM
British Embassy, Britannia House, Rue Joseph II 28, B-1040 **Brussels.** (Tel. 191165, 181709, 187600.) (Telex 23462 a/b BRITEM B.)

Antwerp—British Consulate-General, Van Schoonbekeplein 6, 2000 Antwerp. (Tel. 326940, 328829.) (Commercial correspondence should be addressed in the first instance to the Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade and Industry, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, or to the British Embassy, Brussels, B-1040.)

BOLIVIA
British Embassy, Avenida Arce 2732-2754 (Casilla 694), **La Paz.** (Tel. 51400 and 29404.) (Telex BX 5228 a/b PRODROME BX 5228.)

BOTSWANA
British High Commission, Private Bag 23, **Gaborone.** (Tel. 2483/5.)

BRAZIL
British Embassy, Avenida das Nacoes, Lote 8 (Caixa Postal 07-0586) **Brasilia D.F.** (Tel. Brasilia 43-8223, 43-8023, 43-8323.) (Telex 041-216 a/b PRODROME BRASILIA.)
(*Rio de Janeiro is the senior commercial post and the central point for British trade promotion work in Brazil*).

Rio de Janeiro—British Consulate-General, British Trade Promotion Office, Praia do Flamengo 284-2° Andar (Caixa Postal 669-ZC-00.) (Tel. 225-7252.) Telex 31802 a/b BRITAIN RIO DE JANEIRO.)

Sao Paulo—British Consulate-General, Avenida Paulista 1938 (17° Andar.) (Caixa Postal 846) Sao Paulo. (Tel. 287-7722.) (Telex 021846 a/b BRITAIN SAO PAULO.)

BRUNEI
British High Commission, Jalan Residency, **Bandar Seri Begawan,** State of Brunei. (Tel. 2231.) (Telex BRU 211 a/b UKREP, BRU 211.)

BULGARIA
British Embassy, Boulevard Marchal Tolbukhin 65-67, **Sofia.** (Tel. 885361/2.) (Telex 22363 a/b PRODROME SOFIA.)

BURMA
British Embassy, 80 Strand Road (P.O.Box 638), **Rangoon.** (Tel. 15700.)

CAMEROON
British Consulate, Rue Alfred Saker (Postal Address: BP 1016, Douala, Cameroon). (Tel. 42 21 77 and 42 22 45.) (Telex 5353 a/b BRITAIN 5353 KN.)

CANADA
British High Commission, 80 Elgin Street, **Ottawa** K1P 5K7, Ontario. (Tel. 237-1530.) (Telex 0534266 a/b UKREP, OTT.)

Montreal—British Government Office, 635 Dorchester Boulevard West, Montreal 101, P.Q. (Tel. 866-5863.) (Telex 01-26437 a/b UKREP, MTL.)

Toronto—British Government Office, 8th Floor, 200 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3E3. (Tel. 864-1290.) (Telex 02-29531 a/b UKREP, TOR.)

Vancouver—British Government Office, 4th Floor, Bank of Nova Scotia Building, 602 West Hastings Street, Vancouver 2, British Columbia. (Tel. 683-4421.) (Telex 04-51287 a/b UKREP, VCR.)

Winnipeg—British Government Office, 402 Monarch Life Building, 333 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, 1, Manitoba R3C OS9. (Tel. 942-3151.) (Telex 07-57814 a/b UKREP, WPG.)

Edmonton—British Government Office, Suite 1404, Three McCauley Plaza, 10025 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6. (Tel. 424-0481.) (Telex 037-2421 a/b UKREP. EDM.)

Halifax—British Government Office, 10th Floor, Centennial Building, 1645 Granville Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. (Tel. 422-7488.) (Telex 019-21634 a/b UKREP, HFX.)

CEYLON
Renamed—*see* SRI LANKA.

CHILE
British Embassy, P.O. Box 72-D, Bandera 227, **Santiago.** (Tel. 61151/5.) (Telex PROST CL 40844 a/b PROST CL 40844.)

CHINA
British Embassy, 5 Kuang Hua Lu, Chien Kou Men Wai, **Peking.** (Tel. 521961/4.)

COLOMBIA
British Embassy, Carrera 10, No. 19-65, 7° Pisco, **Bogota.** (*Airmail address:* Apartado Aereo 4508, Bogota.) (Tel. 349080.) (Telex 44503 a/b 44503 BRIT CO.)

COSTA RICA
British Embassy, Paseo Colon, 3202, Apartado 10056, **San José.** (Tel. 21-58-16 and 21-56-88.) (Telex CR169 a/b CR169 PRODROME.)

CUBA
British Embassy, Edificio Bolivar, Capdevila, 101-103, e Morro y Prado, **Havana.** (Tel. 61-5681.) (Postal address: c/o Apartado 535, Administration de Correos No. 1, Mexico 1 DF, Mexico.)

CYPRUS
British High Commission, P.O. Box 1978, Alexander Pallis Street, **Nicosia.** (Tel. 73131-5.) (Telex 2208 a/b UKREPNIC.)

***CZECHOSLOVAKIA**
British Embassy, Thunovska 14, **Prague** (Praha) 1. (Tel. 533347/9 and 533340.) (Telex 0121011 a/b 121011 PRDM C.)

DENMARK
British Embassy, 36-40 Kastelsvej, DK-2100 **Copenhagen** O. (Tel. Tria 6360.) (Telex 27106 a/b 27106 BRIEMB DK.)

Aarhus—British Trade Office, BP Huset, Europaplads 2 ii, DK-8000 Aarhus. (Tel. (06) 122500.)

(*There is also an Honorary Consul in the* **Faroe Islands** *at Thorshavn who will be glad to see British business visitors:*
British Consulate, Yviri vid Strand 17 (P.O. Box 49) DK—3800, **Thorshavn,** Faroe Islands. (Tel. Bryggjan 13510.)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
British Embassy, Apartado 1352, No. 84 Avenida Independencia, **Santo Domingo.** (Tel. 682-3128/9.) (Telex 3460075 a/b 3460075 PRODROME.)

ECUADOR
British Embassy (opposite Hotel Quito), Gonzalez Suárez 111, **Quito** (Postal address: Casilla 314, Quito). (Tel. 230070/3.) (Telex 38 a/b 38 PRODROME ED).

EGYPT, ARAB REPUBLIC OF
British Embassy, Kasr El Doubara, Garden City, **Cairo.** (Tel. 20850.)

EL SALVADOR
British Embassy, 13a Avenida Norte (Continuacion), No. 611, Colonia Duenas, **San Salvador.** (Tel. 219106, 220590, 223945.) (Telex 20133 a/b PRODSALV.)
(*Postal address: Embajada Britanica, Apartado (cc) 500, San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America.*)

***ETHIOPIA**
British Embassy, Papassinos Building, Ras Desta Damtew Avenue, P.O. Box 858, **Addis Ababa.** (Tel. 151166 and 151252/3.)

***Asmara**—British Consulate, Gellatly Hankey Building, Av. Haile Selassie I, P.O. Box 254, Asmara. (Tel. 110131.)

FIJI
British High Commission, Civic Centre, Stinson Parade (P.O. Box 1355), **Suva** (UKREP SUVA). (Tel. 311033.) (Telex FJ 2129 a/b UKREP FJ 2129.)

FINLAND
British Embassy, Uudenmaankatu 16-20, **Helsinki** 12. (Tel. 12574.) (Telex 121122 a/b UKHKI SF.)

FRANCE
British Embassy, 35 Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré, **75008 Paris.** (Tel. 266-91-42.) (Telex 65264 a/b INFORM PARIS.)

Bordeaux—British Consulate-General, 15 Cours de Verdun, 33081 Bordeaux Cedex. (Tel. 52-28-35/6.) (Telex 57440 a/b BRITAIN BORDX.)

Lille—British Consulate-General, 60 Boulevard de la Liberté (Sac Postal 2037), 59014 Lille Cedex. (Tel. 573549 and 570177.) (Telex 82669 a/b 82669 BRITAIN LILLE.)

Lyon—British Consulate-General, 24 Rue Childebert, 69 288 Lyon Cedex 1, Rhone. (Tel. 375967/8.) (Telex 33254 a/b BRITAIN LYON.)

Marseille—British Consulate-General, 24 Avenue du Prado, 13-Marseilles 6e (Bouches du Rhonee). (Tel. 376854/6.) (Telex 42307 a/b BRITAIN MARSL.)

Strasbourg—British Consulate-General, 10 Rue du General de Castelnau, 67001 Strasbourg Cedex. (Tel. 88-366491.) (Telex 87995 a/b BRISTRA STRBG.)

Telegraphic address

Unless otherwise stated, the telegraphic addresses to be used are:
Embassies—'Prodrome' followed by the town name.
Consular offices—'Britain' followed by the town name.
High Commission offices—'Ukrep' followed by the town name.

GAMBIA
British High Commission, 78 Wellington Street, P.O. Box 507, **Banjul.** (Tel. 244/6.)

GERMANY, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
British Embassy, **108 Berlin.** 32-34 Unter den Linden. (Tel. 225431.) (Telex 113171 and 113172 a/b GBBER DD.)

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC
British Embassy, **53. Bonn,** Friedrich-Ebert Allee 77. (Tel. 234061.) (Telex 886887, 0886161 and 0886162 a/b BRINF D.)

Berlin—British Consulate-General, 1000 Berlin 12, Uhlandstrasse 7-8. (Tel. 3095295.) (Telex 184268 a/b UKBLN D.)

Dusseldorf—British Consulate-General, 4 Dusseldorf, Nordsternhaus, Georg-Glock-Strasse 14. (Tel. 434281-5.) (Telex 8584855 a/b 8584855 COM D.)

***Frankfurt**—British Consulate-General, 6 Frankfurt, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 51-53. (Tel. 720406.) (Telex 414932 a/b UKFFT D.)

Hamburg—British Consulate-General, 2000 Hamburg 13, Harvestehuderweg 8a. (Tel. 4513 51/5.) (Telex 0213562 a/b BRHBG.)

Hanover—British Consulate-General, 3000 Hanover, Uhlemeyer Strasse 9 & 11. (Tel. 327641/5.) (Telex 923263 a/b BCGHN D.)

Munich—British Consulate-General, 8000 Munich 13, Akademiestrasse 7. (Tel. 394015/19.) (Telex 529959 a/b UKMUN D.)

Stuttgart—British Consulate-General, 7000 Stuttgart, Königstrasse 45. (Tel. 293216/8.) (Telex 722397 a/b 722397 UKST D.)

GHANA
British High Commission, Barclays Bank Building, High Street (P.O. Box 296), **Accra.** (Tel. 64651.)
(*The P.O. Box number must be used for all correspondence.*)

GREECE
British Embassy, 1, Ploutarchou Street, **Athens** 139. (Tel. 736211 (10 lines).) (Telex 216440 a/b 216440 LION GR.)

GUATEMALA
British Consulate, Edificio Maya, Via 5, No 4-50, 8° Piso, Zona 4, **Guatemala City.** (Tel. 61329 and 64375.) (Telex 279 a/b BRITON GU.)

***GUYANA**
British High Commission, 44 Main Street, (P.O. Box 625), **Georgetown.** (Tel. 65881/4.) (Telex GY221 a/b 221 UKREP GY.)

HAITI
British Consulate, Shell Building, Rue Pavée, (P.O. Box 1302), **Port Au Prince.** (Tel. 21227 & 23921.)

HONDURAS
British Embassy, Edificio Palic, 4 Piso, Avenida Republica de Chile 804 (Apartado 290), **Tegucigalpa.** (Tel. 22-0479/80.) (Telex 1138 a/b 1138 PRODTEGU HT.)

HONG KONG
British Trade Commissioner, P.O. Box 528, 707 Shell House, Queen's Road Central, **Hong Kong.** ('Uktrade, Hong Kong.') (Tel. H. 230176-8.) (Telex HX 3031 a/b UKTRADE HX 3031.)

HUNGARY
British Embassy, Harmincad Utca 6, **Budapest V.** (Tel. 182-880.) (Telex 224527 a/b 224527 BRIT H.)

ICELAND
British Embassy, Laufasvegur 49, **Reykjavik.** (Tel. 15883/4.) (Telex 2037 a/b 2037 UKREYK IS.)

INDIA
British High Commission in India, Chanakyapuri, **New Delhi,** 110021. (Tel. 70371.) (Telex 2135 a/b ND 2135.)

Calcutta—British High Commission, 1 Ho Chi Minh Sarani, P.O. Box 9073, Calcutta, 700016. (Tel. 44-5171.)

Bombay—British High Commission, P.O. Box 815, Mercantile Bank Buildings, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay, 400001. (Tel. 259981/5.)

Madras—British High Commission, P.O. Box 3710, 150A Mount Road, Madras, 600002. (Tel. 83136.)

INDONESIA
British Embassy, Djalan Thamrim 75, **Jakarta.** (Tel. 41091/8.) (Telex 6166 a/b PRODROME DKT 6166.)

IRAN
British Embassy, Avenue Ferdowsi, **Tehran.** (Tel. 45011/4.) (Telex 2493 a/b 2493 PRODROME TN.)

IRAQ
British Commercial Office, Shaheen Building, Saadoon Street, **Baghdad.** (Tel. 99001/3.)

***IRISH REPUBLIC**
British Embassy, 30 Merrion Square, **Dublin,** 2. (Tel. 65678/9.) (Telex 5296 a/b 5296 UKDB EI.)

ISRAEL
British Embassy, 192 Rehov Hayarkon Street, **Tel Aviv** 63405. (Tel. 249171-5.) (Telex 33-559 a/b PRODR IL.)

ITALY
British Consulate-General, Via San Paolo 7, I-20121 **Milan.** (Tel. 803442-6.) (Telex 31528 a/b 31528 BRITAIN.)
(*Milan is the senior commercial post and central point for British trade promotion work in Italy.*)

Rome—British Embassy, Via XX Settembre 80A, I 00187 Rome. (Tel. 4755551-5.) (Telex 61049 a/b 61049 PRODROME.)

Florence—British Consulate, Palazzo Castelbarco Lungarno Corsini 2, I 50123 Florence. (Tel. 272594.) (Telex 57270 a/b 57270 BRITAIN.)

Genoa—British Consulate-General, Via XII Ottobre 2/132, I 16121 Genoa. (Tel. 564833-6.) (Telex 27689 a/b 27689 BRITAIN.)

Naples—British Consulate-General, Via Fransesco Crispi 122, 80122 Naples. (Tel. 663883.) (Telex 71330 a/b 71330 BRITAIN.)

Bari—British Trade Representative, Via Fratelli Rosselli 38, I 70126, Bari. (Tel. 330791.)

***Palermo**—British Consulate, Via Marchese di Villabianco 9, I 90143 Palermo. (Tel. 253364-6.) (Telex 91111 a/b 91111 CONSULUK.)

Turin—British Consulate, 1 Corso Vittorio Emanuele (corner of Corso Massimo d'Azeglio), I 10125 Turin. (Tel. 657676/7.) (Telex 21464 a/b 21464 BRITAIN.)

Venice—British Consulate, Accademia Dorsoduro, 1051, Castella Postale 469 Venezia. (Postal address, British Consulate, P.O. Box 469, I 30100 Venice.) (Tel. 27408 and 27207.) (Telex 41283 a/b 41283 BRITAIN.)

IVORY COAST
British Embassy, Fifth Floor, Immeuble Shell, Avenue Lamblin, **Abidjan** (Postal address: Boite Postale 2581, Abidjan.) (Tel. 226615, 322776 and 324980.) (Telex 706 a/b PRODROME ABIDJAN.)

JAMAICA
British High Commission (P.O. Box 393), Barclays Bank Building, 54 King Street, **Kingston**, Jamaica. (Britcom, Kingston.) (Tel. 932-1930.) (Telex 2110 a/b UKREP, KIN JA.)

JAPAN
British Embassy, 1 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, **Tokyo** 102. (Tel. (03) 265-5511.) (Telex J.22755 a/b PRODROME.)

Osaka—British Consulate-General, Hong-kong Bank Building, 45 Awajimachi, 4-chome, Higashi-ku, Osaka 541. (Tel. (06) 231-3355/7.) (Telex 522 5167 a/b BRITAIN OSA or BRIOSK.)

JORDAN
British Embassy, King Hussein Street, P.O. Box 6062, **Amman.** (Tel. 37374-5.)

KENYA
British High Commission in Kenya, P.O. Box 30133, 13th Floor, Bruce House, Standard Street, **Nairobi.** (Tel. 35944.) (Telex 22219 a/b UKREP, NAIROBI.)

KHMER REPUBLIC
British Embassy, 96 Moha Vithei 9 Tola (BP 150) **Phnom Penh.** (Tel. 23976.)

KOREA
British Embassy, No. 4 Chung dong, Sudaimoon-ku, **Seoul.** (Tel. 75-7341/3.)

KUWAIT
British Embassy, Kuwait Investment Company Building (5th Floor), Plot 6, Area 9, Ahmad al-Jabir Street. (P.O. Box SAFAT 300). **Kuwait.** (Tel. 439221/2.)

LAOS
British Embassy, Rue J. Nehru, P.O. Box 224, **Vientiane.** (Tel. 2333 and 2374.)

LEBANON
British Embassy, Avenue de Paris Ras Beirut, **Beirut.** (Tel. 221550-3, 225615, 232195.) (Telex 20465 a/b PRODOM.)

LESOTHO
British High Commission, P.O. Box 521, **Maseru.** (Tel. 3961.)

LIBERIA
British Embassy, P.O. Box 120, 'Mamba Point', **Monrovia.** (Tel. 21055, 21107.) (Telex 4287 a/b PRODROM LIB.)

LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC
British Embassy, 30 Triq Alfatah, **Tripoli.** (Tel. 31191/5.)

LUXEMBOURG
British Embassy, 28 Boulevard Royal, **Luxembourg.** (Tel. 29864/5.) (Telex 443 a/b PRODROME L.)

MADAGASCAR (MALAGASY REPUBLIC)
British Embassy, 41 Rue Choiseul (Boite Postale 167), **Tananarive.** (Tel. 206-50.) (Telex 201-226 a/b PRODROME, TANA.)

Important

The information given in this list is intended for the benefit of exporters travelling abroad. All commercial inquiries should be addressed initially to the nearest Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry, or to Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7HU (Tel. 01-248 5757) (Telex 886143). A great deal of overseas commercial information is on record and can be supplied immediately.

MALAWI
British High Commission, P.O. Box 479, Victoria Avenue, **Blantyre.** (Tel. 33022.)

***MALAYSIA**
British High Commission (P.O. Box 1030), 13th Floor, Wisma Damansara, Jalan Semantan, **Kuala Lumpur.** (Tel. 202666.) (Telex 275 a/b UKREP KL 275.)

***MALTA**
British High Commission, 7 St. Anne Street, **Floriana.** (Tel. Central 21285/6/7.) (Telex 249 UKREP MW.)

MAURITIUS
British High Commission, P.O. Box 586, Cerne House, Chaussée Street, **Port Louis.** (Tel. 20201.) (Telex IW 266 a/b UKREP IW 266.)

MEXICO
British Embassy, Lerma 71, Cuauhtemoc, P.O. Box 96 Bis., **Mexico** 5 D.F. (Tel. 5114880/85.) (Telex 1771185 a/b 1771185 UKEM MEX.)

MONGOLIA
British Embassy, 36 Peace Street (P.O. Box No. 703), **Ulan Bator,** The People's Republic of Mongolia. (Tel. 51033.)

MOROCCO
British Consulate-General, 60 Boulevard d'Anfa (Boite Postale 762), **Casablanca.** (Tel. 261440/1.) (Telex 22781 M a/b BRITAIN 22781 M.)

***MOZAMBIQUE** (Portuguese East Africa)
British Consulate-General, 310 Avenida Augusto do Castilho (P.O. Box 55), **Lourenco Marques.** (Tel. 26011/2, 29989.) (Telex 01265 a/b UKREP MO.)

NEPAL
British Embassy, Lain Chaur (P.O. Box 106.), **Kathmandu.** (Tel. 11081, 11588/9.)

NETHERLANDS
British Embassy, Lange Voorhout 10, **The Hague.** (Tel. (070) 645800.) (Telex 31600 a/b 31600 BEMB NL.)

Amsterdam—British Consulate-General, Johannes Vermeerstraat 7, Amsterdam. (Tel. (020) 739143.) (Telex 15117 a/b 15117 UKAMS NL.)

NEW ZEALAND
British High Commission, Reserve Bank of New Zealand Building, 9th Floor, 2 The Terrace, **Wellington** 1. (Postal address: P.O. Box 369.) (Tel. 46-060.) (Telex NZ 3325 a/b UKREP NZ 3325.)

Auckland—British High Commission, 9th Floor, Norwich Union Building, Queen Street, Auckland, 1. (Postal address: Private Bag, Auckland, 1.) (Tel. 32-973.) (Telex NZ 2412 a/b UKREPAK NZ 2412.)

Christchurch—British High Commission, B.N.Z. House, Cathedral Square, Christchurch. (Postal address: P.O. Box 1762, Christchurch.) (Tel. 30-143.) (Telex NZ 4428 a/b UKREP NZ 4428.)

***NICARAGUA**
British Embassy, Avenida Las Colinas (Lote 100), Las Colinas, Carretera a Masaya Km. 9, **Managua.** (Postal address: Apartado 13, Managua, Nicaragua.) (Tel. 96256/96207.) (Telex 1028 a/b PRODMGA 1028).

NIGERIA
British High Commission in Nigeria, Kajola House, 62-64 Campbell Street, **Lagos** (Postal address: Private Mail Bag 12136, Lagos, Nigeria). (Tel. 51630, Counsellor 21202 or First Secretary 21409.) (Telex 21247 a/b UKREP, LAGOS.)

Benin City—Office of the British Deputy High Commissioner, U.A.C. Main Premises, Siluko Road, Benin City. (Tel. 805/6.) (Postal address: Private Mail Bag 1094, Benin City.)

Ibadan—Office of the British Deputy High Commissioner, Finance Corporation Building, Lebanon Street, Ibadan. (Tel. 21551.) (Postal address: Private Mail Bag 5010, Ibadan.)

Kaduna—Office of the British Deputy High Commissioner, Office of the United Bank for Africa Building, Yakubu Gowon Way, Kaduna. (Tel. 22573/5.) (Postal address: Private Mail Bag 2096, Kaduna.)

NORWAY
British Embassy, Thomas Heftyesgate 8, **Oslo, 2.** (Tel. 563890/7.) (Telex 11575 a/b 11575 UKOSL N.)

Bergen—Consul, British Consulate, Slottsgaten 1, 5015 Bergen. (Tel. 210990 & 217033.) (Telex 42660 a/b 42660 UK BGN N.)

OMAN
British Embassy, **Muscat** (Postal address: P.O. Box 300, Muscat). (Tel. 2411-2415.) (Telex MB 216 a/b PRODROME MB 216, and MB 273 a/b PRODROME MB 273.)

PAKISTAN
British Embasy, Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna 5 (P.O. Box 1122.), **Islamabad.** (Tel. 22131/5.)
Commercial matters are dealt with according to area by the following Consulates-General:

Karachi—York Place, Runnymeade Lane, Port Trust Estate, Clifton, Karachi (Britain Karachi). (Tel. 53 20 41.)

Lahore—4 Racecourse Road (P.O. Box 416), Lahore (Britain Lahore). (Tel. 60141.)

PANAMA
British Embassy, Via Espana 120, **Panama City** (Postal address: Panama City c/o British Consulate Box B, Balboa Post Office, Canal Zone, Panama). (Tel. Panama City 23-0451.) (Telex 3481020 a/b PROPANA.)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
British Consulate, United Church Building (3rd floor), Douglas Street, **Port Moresby.** (Postal address: P.O. Box 739, Port Moresby.) (Tel. 2485 and 3095.) (Telex NE 22142 a/b NE 22142.)

PARAGUAY
British Embassy, 25 de Mayo 171, **Asuncion** (Postal address: Casilla de Correo 404, Asuncion). (Tel. 49146.) (Telex 139 a/b PRODROME 139 PY.)

PERU
British Embassy, Edificio Pacifico, Plaza Washington, Avenida Arequipa (sextra cuadra), **Lima.** (Postal address: P.O. Box 854, Lima.) (Tel. 283830.) (Telex PX 5230 a/b PRODROME, PX 5230.)

PHILIPPINES
British Embassy, P.O. Box 295, 9th Floor, L. & S. Building, 1414 Roxas Boulevard, **Manila.** (Tel. 59-24-61.) (Telex 3282 PRODME PN a/b 3282 PRODME PN.)

POLAND
British Embassy, Aleje Roz 1, **Warsaw** (Tel. 281001-5.) (Telex 813694 a/b 813694 PROD PL.)

PORTUGAL
British Embassy, Rua de S. Domingos a Lapa 35-39, **Lisbon 3.** (Tel. 661191/5.) (Telex 12278 a/b 12278 PROLIS P.)

QATAR
British Embassy, P.O. Box 3, **Doha.** (Tel. 22637.) (Telex POLITICAL DH 205 a/b PRODROME, DH 205.)

ROMANIA
British Embassy, 24, Strada Jules Michelet, **Bucharest.** (Tel. 111635/6.) (Telex 011-295 a/b PRODROME, BUC.)

SAUDI ARABIA
British Embassy, Dutch Bank Building, 4th Floor (P.O. Box 393), **Jedda.** (Tel. 27306 & 27122.)

SENEGAL
British Embassy, 20 Rue du Docteur Guillet (B.P. 6025), **Dakar.** (Tel. 22383.) (Telex 548 a/b PRODROME, SG.)

SIERRA LEONE
British Trade and Information Centre, 4th Floor, Leone House, Siaka Stevens Street, **Freetown.** (Tel. 4096.) (Telex 235 a/b UKREP FTN 235.)

SINGAPORE
British High Commission, Tanglin Circus, **Singapore 10.** (Postal address: Tanglin P.O. Box 19.) (Tel. 639333.) (Telex RS 21299 a/b BRITCOM 21299.)

SOMALI REPUBLIC
British Embassy, Waddada Xasan Geeddi Abtoow 7/8, P.O. Box 1036, **Mogadishu.** (Tel. 2288.) (Telex Mogadishu 617 a/b PRODROME MOG SM.)

SOUTH AFRICA, REPUBLIC OF
British Embassy, 6 Hill Street, Arcadia, **Pretoria** 0002. (Tel. 74-3121.) (Telex 44641 a/b 44641 PR.)

Johannesburg—British Consulate-General, 8th Floor, B.P. Centre, corner Kerk/Harrison Street, P.O. Box 10101, Johannesburg (Brit-consul, Johannesburg.) (Tel. 834-6411.) (Telex 43-7115 a/b 43-7115 JH.)
(Johannesburg is the senior commercial post and the central point for British trade promotion work in South Africa.)

Cape Town—British Consulate-General, 11th Floor, African Eagle Centre, 2 St. Georges Street, P.O. Box 500, Cape Town. (Tel. 41-1466/8.) (Telex 5-7447CT a/b 5-7447CT.)

Durban—British Consulate General, 7th Floor, Barclays Bank Building, Field Street, Durban. (Tel. 313131 (five lines).) (Telex 6-7428 a/b 6-7428 DN.)

SPAIN
British Embassy, Calle de Fernando el Santo 16, **Madrid** 4. (Tel. 419-0200/12.) (Telex 27656 a/b 27656 INGLAE.)

Barcelona—British Consulate-General, Edificio Torre de Barcelona, Avenida Generalisimo Franco 477 (13 Floor), Apartado de Correos 12111, Barcelona 11. (Tel. 239 0804, 239 1300.) (Telex 52799 a/b 52799 BRBAR E.)

Bilbao—British Consulate-General, Alameda Urquijo 2-8, Bilbao 8. (Tel. 214780.) (Telex 32446 a/b 32446 BRBIL.)

Telegraphic address

Unless otherwise stated, the telegraphic addresses to be used are:
Embassies—'Prodrome' followed by the town name.
Consular offices—'Britain' followed by the town name.
High Commission offices—'Ukrep' followed by the town name.

Seville—British Consulate, Plaza Nueva 8 (Dpdo), Seville. (Tel. 228875.) (Telex 72172 a/b 72172 BRSEV E.)

Valencia—British Consulate, Calle Cronista Carreres 1, 4a Valencia 3. (Tel. 21-12-75.)

Vigo—British Vice-Consulate, Plaza de Compostela No. 23 (6°), (P.O. Box 49), Vigo. (Tel. 211450.)

Palma de Mallorca—British Consulate, 23-1° Jaime III, Palma de Mallorca. (Tel. 212085, 212445.)

Las Palmas—British Consulate, Edificio Hocasa, 6 Piso, Calle Alfredo L. Jones, 33 (P.O. Box 2020), Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands. (Tel. 262508.) (Telex 95276 a/b 95276 BRTLP E.)

Santa Cruz—British Consulate, Calle del Si 3, 3rd Floor (esquina a Villalba Hervas), (P.O. Box 109) Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands. (Tel. 242000.)

SRI LANKA
British High Commission, Galle Road, Kellupitiya, **Colombo** 3. (Postal address: P.O. Box 1433, Colombo.) (Tel. 27611/15.) (Telex 1101 a/b UKREP, COLOMBO.)

SUDAN
British Embassy, P.O. Box 801, New Aboulela Building, Barlaman Avenue, **Khartoum.** (Tel. 70760, 70766-9.)

SURINAM
There is an Honorary Vice-Consul at the British Vice-Consulate at Paramaribo who will be pleased to see business visitors. His address is: 15 Mr. Dr. de Mirandastraat (P.O. Box 1300), **Paramaribo.** (Tel. 77455.)

SWAZILAND
British High Commission, Alister Miller Street, **Mbabane.** (Postal address: British High Commission, Private Bag, Mbabane.) (Tel. 2581.)

SWEDEN
British Embassy, Skarpögatan 6-8, S-115 27 **Stockholm.** (Tel. 670140.) (Telex 19340 a/b BRITEMB S.)

Gothenburg—British Consulate-General, Götgatan 15, S-411 05 Gothenburg. (Tel. 136277.) (Telex 20041 a/b BRITAIN S.)

Malmo—British Consulate, Lilla Nygatan 11, S-211 38 Malmö. (Tel. 126625.)

SWITZERLAND
Zurich—British Consulate-General, Dufourstrasse 56, 8008 Zurich. (Tel. (051) 344042; from 16 May (01) 47 15 20/6.) (Telex 54260 a/b 54260 UKZUR CH.)
(Zurich is the senior commercial post and central point for British trade promotion work in Switzerland.)

Berne—British Embassy, Thunstrasse 50, 3005 Berne. (Tel. (031) 445021/8.) (Telex 32687 a/b 32687 UK BNECH.)

Basle—British Consulate, P.O. Box No. 851, Rittergasse 35, 4001 Basle. (Tel. (061) 235843.) (Telex 62959 a/b UKBAL CH.)

Geneva—British Consulate-General, 6th Floor, Rue de Vermont 37-39, 1211 Geneva 20. (Tel. (022) 343800, 332385.) (Telex 22956 a/b 22956A (or B) UKGV CH.)

SYRIA
British Embassy, 11 Kotob Building, Mohd. Kurd Ali Street, Malki Avenue (P.O. Box 37), **Damascus.** (Tel. 332561-3.)

TANZANIA
British High Commission, Permanent House, corner Azikiwe Street/Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 9112, **Dar-es-Salaam.** (Tel. 29601.) (Telex 41004 a/b 41004 UKREP.)

THAILAND
British Embassy, Pleonchit Road, **Bangkok.** (Tel. 53291.)

TOGO
British Embassy, Boulevard Circulaire, Boite Postale 892, **Lome,** Republic of Togo. (Tel. 2085.) (Telex 5210 a/b PRODROME, LOME.)

TONGA
British High Commission, **Nukualofa.**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
British High Commission, Furness House, 90 Independence Square, P.O. Box 778, **Port of Spain,** Trinidad. (Tel. 52861/6.) (Telex WG 224 a/b UKREP 224.)

TUNISIA
British Embassy, 5 Place de la Victoire, **Tunis.** (Tel. 245100, 245324, 245649.) (Telex TUNIS 12007 a/b RDROM 12007 TUNIS.)

TURKEY
British Embassy, Sehit Ersan Caddesi, 46a, Cankaya, **Ankara.** (Tel. 183240/45.) (Telex 20 a/b, PRODROME, ANKARA.)

Istanbul—British Consulate-General, Tepebasi, Beyoglu, Istanbul. (Tel. 498874.) (Telex 298 a/b BRITAIN IST.)

UGANDA
British High Commission, P.O. Box 7070, 10-12 Parliament Avenue, **Kampala.** (Tel. 57054/9.) (Telex 61006 a/b 61006 UKREP KLA.)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Abu Dhabi—British Embassy, Commercial Secretariat, First Floor, Sheikh Ahmad bin Hamad Building, Sheikh Hamdan Street, Abu Dhabi (Postal address: P.O. Box 248, Abu Dhabi.) (Tel. 43033/4/5.) (Telex AH234 a/b PRODROME AH 234.)

***Dubai**—British Embassy, Tariq Ibn Zayed Street (P.O. Box 65), Dubai. (Tel. 31070, 31893 and 31993.) (Telex DB 5426 a/b 5426 BRITEM DB.)

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC—Re-named: see **EGYPT, ARAB REPUBLIC OF**

UNITED STATES
Washington—British Embassy, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20008. (Tel. HO 21340.) (Telex 892370 a/b PRODROME WSH.)

New York—British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street (19th and 20th floors), New York, N.Y. 10022. (Tel. 593-2258, Area Code 212.) (Telex 126919 a/b PRODROME NYK.)
(New York is the senior commercial post and the central point for British trade promotion work in the USA. Export Credits Guarantee Department's representative in N. America is at the same address.)

Atlanta—British Consulate-General, Suite 912, 225 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. (Tel. 524-2691/2, Area Code 404.) (Telex 542517 a/b BRITAIN ATL.)

Boston—British Consulate-General, Suite 4740, Prudential Tower, Prudential Centre, Boston, Massachusetts 02199. (Tel. 261-3060, Area Code 617.) (Telex 946412 a/b BRITAIN BSN.)

Chicago—British Consulate-General, 33 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. 60602. (Tel. 346-1810/17, Area Code 312.) (Telex 254432 a/b BRITAIN CGO.)

Cleveland—British Consulate-General, 1823 Illuminating Building, 55 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. (Tel. 621-7674, Area Code 216.) (Telex 980126 a/b BRITAIN CLV.)

Dallas—British Government Trade Office, 813 Stemmons Tower West, 2730 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75207. ('Britrade, Dallas.') (Tel. 637-3600, Area Code 214.) (Telex 730382 a/b BRITRADE DAL.)

Detroit—British Consulate-General, 1008 Detroit Bank and Trust Building, 211 Fort Street West, Detroit, Michigan 48226. (Tel. 962-4776, Area Code 313.) (Telex 230158 a/b BRITAIN DET.)

Honolulu—British Consulate-General, Suite 1206, 841 Bishop Street, Honolulu 96813. (Tel. 536-1048/9.) (Telex 634161 a/b BRITAIN 634161.)

Houston—British Consulate-General, 1005 World Trade Centre, 1520 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002. (Tel. 223-2301, Area Code 713.) (Telex 762-307 a/b BRITAIN HOU.)

Los Angeles—British Consulate-General, Ahmanson Centre East Building, Suite 312, 3701, Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90010. (Tel. 385-7381, Area Code 213.) (Telex 677421 a/b BRITAIN LSA.)

Miami—British Consulate, 700 Ingraham Building, 25, S.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131. (Tel. 371-7544/6, Area Code 305.) (Telex 519468 a/b BRITAIN MIA.)

Minneapolis—British Government Trade Office, 922 Midwest Plaza Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402. (Tel. 335-0921, Area Code 612.) (Telex 290122 a/b BRITRADE MPS.)

Important

The information given in this list is intended for the benefit of exporters travelling abroad. All commercial inquiries should be addressed initially to the nearest Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry, or to Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7HU (Tel. 01-248 5757) (Telex 886143). A great deal of overseas commercial information is on record and can be supplied immediately.

Philadelphia—British Consulate-General, 12 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. (Tel. Walnut 52430/2, Area Code 215.) (Telex 834636 a/b BRITAIN PhA.)

San Juan—British Consulate, Room 1014, Banco Popular Center, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. (Postal address: G.P.O. Box 2157, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936.) (Tel. 767-4435 (Area Code 809).) (Telex 365270 a/b 365270 BRITAIN.)

St. Louis—British Consulate-General, 7th Floor, Gateway Tower, 1 Memorial Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63102. (Tel. Main 14688, Area Code 314.) (Telex 447190 a/b BRITAIN STL.)

San Francisco—British Consulate-General, 9th Floor, Equitable Life Buildings, 120 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94104. (Tel. 981-3030, Area Code 415.) (Telex 340628 a/b BRITAIN SFO.)

Seattle—British Consulate-General, 1216 Norton Building, 801 2nd Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104. (Tel. 622-9253, Area Code 206.) (Telex 329602 a/b BRITAIN SEA.)

(There is also a Vice-Consul at Baltimore and a Consul at Norfolk who will be glad to see business visitors.)

Baltimore—British Consulate, Suite 3406, 222 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. (Tel. 727-1082, Area Code 301.)

Norfolk—British Consulate, 932 Wainwright Building, 229 West Bute Street, Norfolk, Virginia, 23510. (Tel. MA 7-1934, Area Code 703.)

URUGUAY
British Embassy, Edificio Banco de Londres y America del Sud, Cerrito 420, Piso 7°, **Montevideo.** (Tel. 912501.) (Telex 398439 a/b PRODROME UY 439.)

USSR
British Embassy, Kutuzovsky Prospekt 7/4, **Moscow G248.** (Tel. 241-1033/4.) (Telex 7341 a/b PRODROME SU.)

VENEZUELA
British Embassy, 12th Floor, Avenida La Estancia No. 10, Ciudad Commercial Tamanaco, Chuao, **Caracas.** (Postal address: Apartado 1246, Caracas.) (Tel. 911391.) (Telex 23468 a/b 23468 PROCARAC.)

VIETNAM
British Embassy, 25 Boulevarde Thong Nhut, P.O. Box No. 1, **Saigon.** (Tel. 23341/2.)

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC
British Embassy, 13 Al Qasr al Jumhuri (P.O. Box 1287), **Sana'a.** (Tel. 2684 and 5714.)

YEMEN, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
British Embassy, 28 Ho Chi Minh Street, Khormaksar, **Aden.** (Tel. 24171-6.)

YUGOSLAVIA
British Embassy, Ulica Generala Zdanova 46, **Belgrade.** (Tel. 645055.) (Telex 11468 a/b 11468 YU PROBEL.)

Zagreb—British Consulate-General, Ilica 12 (P.O. Box 454), 41001 Zagreb. (Tel. 447533.) (Telex 21309 a/b 21309 YU BR ZAG.)

ZAIRE REPUBLIC
British Embassy, 9 Avenue de l'Equateur, 5th floor, Barclays Bank International Building (B.P. 8049), **Kinshasa.** (Tel. 234836.)

ZAMBIA
British High Commission, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box RW50, **Lusaka.** (Tel. 51122.) (Telex LS 4115 a/b UKREP ZA 4115.)

British Trade Correspondents

NOTE: The * denotes that the entry has been amended since last published in January 1974.

Trade Correspondents generally give part-time service to the Department of Trade and Industry. Often they are Civil Servants who have been selected to act in this capacity in addition to their normal duties; in certain other territories local businessmen undertake these functions. The extent to which British Trade Correspondents can assist British business visitors is therefore limited.

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Mr. M. A. Isaacson, P.O. Box 29, **Windhoek,** South West Africa. (Tel. 7983.)

BELIZE
Mr. Gordon Roe, 6 Fort Street, P.O. Box 438, **Belize City.** (Tel. 2383.)

BERMUDA
Mrs. A. Brackstone, c/o Visitors' Service Bureau, **Hamilton.** (Tel. 1-2038.)

FALKLAND ISLANDS
The Chief Secretary, **Stanley.**

GIBRALTAR
The Financial and Development Secretary, Government Secretariat, **Gibraltar.** (Tel. 2971, Ext. 51.) (Telex 223 a/b SECRETARIAT GIBRALTAR.)

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLAND COLONY
The Collector of Customs, P.O. Box 503, Betio, **Tarawa,** Gilbert Islands.

NEWFOUNDLAND
Mr. A. G. Ayres, Javelin House, 109 Water Street, P.O. Box 6012, **St. John's,** Newfoundland. (Tel. 726-8948, Area Code 709.)

NEW HEBRIDES
Mr. C. H. Allan, OBE, CMG, Resident Commissioner, **Vila.**

SEYCHELLES
Captain J. Harwood, Mahe Shipping Co. Ltd., Victoria, **Mahe,** Seychelles.

***ST. HELENA**
The Colonial Treasurer, The Castle, Island of St. Helena, South Atlantic Ocean.

***SOLOMON ISLANDS, BRITISH PROTECTORATE**
British Trade Correspondent, High Commission Office, Western Pacific High Commission, **Honiara,** British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

TASMANIA
Mr. W. T. Loney, OBE, 10th Floor, AMP Building, 86 Collins Street, **Hobart,** Tas. (Postal address: GPO Box H. Tas 7001.) (Tel. Hobart 343411/2.)

WESTERN SAMOA
Mr. W. W. Ansell, c/o Bank of Western Samoa, **Apia,** Western Samoa, South Pacific.

Towns and countries in which commercial representation is available

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Accra, Ghana
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Adelaide, Australia
Aden, Yemen
Algiers, Algeria
Amman, Jordan
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Ankara, Turkey
Antwerp, Belgium
Asmara, Ethiopia
Asuncion, Paraguay
Athens, Greece
Atlanta, United States
Auckland, New Zealand

Baghdad, Iraq
Bahrain, Bahrain
Baltimore, United States
Banda Seri Begawan, Brunei
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Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty	
		General	Preferential
84.22.42	Crawler mounted cranes, having a working weight in excess of 50 tonnes	20%	20%
84.22.43	Lifting jacks that are entered for home consumption on or before 6 March 1977	45%	30%
84.22.49	Other	30%	30%
84.22.5	Shiploaders; ore stackers; other loaders and unloaders of the self-propelling kind:		
84.22.51	Shiploaders; ore stackers:		
84.22.511	Having a working weight of not more than 50 tonnes	30%	30%
84.22.519	Other	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 20%	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 20%
84.22.52	Loading equipment of a kind forming part of goods of a kind falling within paragraph 84.22.51 or 84.22.59, as follows: a buckets; b dippers; c grabs; d grapples; e shovels; and f other attachments of a kind similar to those specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) (inclusive), as determined by the Minister	30%	30%
84.22.59	Other:		
84.22.591	Having a working weight of not more than 50 tonnes	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 40%	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 40%
84.22.599	Other	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 20%	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 20%
84.22.6	Teleferics and aerial cableways	15%	7.5%
84.22.7	Conveyors:		
84.22.71	Belt conveyors (other than portable conveyors) having a belt width of 450 mm. or more and suitable for the handling of bulk materials, not being goods falling within paragraph 84.22.72	In respect of the conveyor or elevator belting, if any – 26%; in respect of the remainder of the goods – To and including 6 March 1977 – 40%; From and including 7 March 1977 – 15%	In respect of the conveyor or elevator belting, if any – 26%; in respect of the remainder of the goods – To and including 6 March 1977 – 20%; From and including 7 March 1977 – 15%
84.22.72	Coal conveyors, ore conveyors and ore belt distributors entered for home consumption on or before 6 March 1977	In respect of the conveyor or elevator belting, if any – 26%; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 15%	In respect of the conveyor or elevator belting, if any – 19%; in respect of the remainder of the goods 7.5%
84.22.79	Other	To and including 6 March 1977 – 40%; From and including 7 March 1977 – 30%	To and including 6 March 1977 – 30%; From and including 7 March 1977 – 30%
84.22.8	Wearing parts of an interchangeable or inserted tool type composed wholly or partly of tungsten carbide or other cemented carbides	19%	11%
84.22.9	Other		
84.22.91	Goods (other than winding engines) specially designed for use in the mining or metallurgical industries	15%	15%
84.22.92	Of a kind used solely or principally in agriculture, horticulture or viticulture	15%	7.5%
84.22.99	Other	30%	30%
9 Omit sub-items 84.23.2 to 84.23.9 (inclusive), substitute the following sub-items:			
84.23.2	Road rollers; graders; scrapers; dozers; rippers	30%	30%
84.23.3	Excavating, levelling and tamping machinery, not being goods falling within sub-item 84.23.1 or 84.23.2:		
84.23.31	Having a working weight of not more than 50 tonnes:		
84.23.311	Loaders, back hoes having a working arc of less than 270 degrees and composite loader back-hoe units, of the self-propelling kind	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 40%	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 40%
84.23.319	Other	30%	30%
84.23.32	Loading equipment of a kind forming part of goods of a kind falling within paragraph 84.23.31 or 84.23.39, as follows: a buckets; b dippers; c grabs; d grapples; e shovels; and f other attachments of a kind similar to those specified in paragraphs (a) to (e) (inclusive), as determined by the Minister	30%	30%
84.23.39	Other	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 20%	In respect of a component specified in note 9 to this Chapter – the rate of duty set out in this column that would apply to the component if it were imported separately; in respect of the remainder of the goods – 20%

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. 01-222 7877 (extension at end of each notice)

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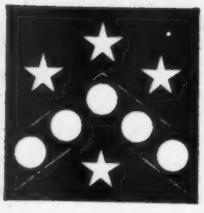

Bank of New Zealand

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West End
54 Regent Street, W1R 5PJ
Telephone: 01-734 2181
30 Royal Opera Arcade, SW1Y 4UY
(New Zealand House Building)
Telephone: 01-930 5761

Head office
Wellington

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Tariff item	Goods	Rates of duty: General	Rates of duty: Preferential
84.23.4	Wearing parts of an interchangeable or inserted tool type composed wholly or partly of tungsten carbide or other cemented carbides	19%	11%
84.23.9	Other:		
84.23.91	Diamond drilling machines and parts and accessories therefor other than core barrel assemblies, reamer shells and drill rods or pipes; augering machines; rock boring machines; rock cutting machines other than coal cutting machines	22.5%	15%
84.23.92	Drill rods or pipes for diamond drilling machines	15%	7.5%
84.23.99	Other	6%	Free
	10 Omit item 84.24, substitute the following item:		
84.24	*Agricultural and horticultural machinery for soil preparation or cultivation; lawn and sports ground rollers:		
84.24.1	Rotary cultivators, hoes or tillers incorporating prime movers of the non-readily detachable kinds; rotary cultivators, power operated, of a kind commonly drawn by wheeled tractors having a power less than 15 kilowatts at the power take-off	22.5%	22.5%
84.24.9	Other	15%	7.5%
	11 Omit sub-item 84.59.7, substitute the following sub-item:		
84.59.7	Road making machinery	30%	30%
	12 In sub-item 84.63.1 omit '87.07.3', substitute '87.07.9'		
	13 Omit sub-item 87.01.3		
	14 In sub-item 87.01.4 omit 'Agricultural wheeled tractors not being goods falling within sub-item 87.01.3; other wheeled tractors not being goods falling within sub-item 87.01.3, being agricultural tractors or', substitute 'Agricultural wheeled tractors and other wheeled'.		
	15 Omit item 87.07, substitute the following item:		
87.07	*Works trucks, mechanically propelled, of a kind used in factories, warehouses, dock areas or airports for short distance transport or handling of goods (including platform trucks, forklift trucks and straddle-carriers); tractors of a kind used on railway station platforms; parts for such trucks and tractors:		
87.07.1	Works trucks designed for loading, unloading, stacking or tiering of goods or materials by means of fork or other attachments to elevating masts and parts therefor other than forks:		
87.07.11	Battery operated trucks, and parts therefor	25%	25%
87.07.19	Other	To and including 6 March 1977 30%, or, if higher $1,000 each; From and including 7 March 1977 to and including 6 March 1979 – 30%, or, if higher, $800 each; From and including 7 March 1979 – 30%	To and including 6 March 1977 30%, or if higher, $1,000 each; From and including 7 March 1977 to and including 6 March 1979 – 30%, or, if higher, $800 each; From and including 7 March 1979 – 30%
87.07.2	Straddle-carriers, and parts therefor		
87.07.21	Assembled straddle-carriers having a gross vehicle weight of 10 tonnes or more	17%	9%
87.07.29	Other	26%	19%
87.07.3	Works trucks not falling within sub-item 87.07.1 or 87.07.2, and parts therefor	25%	25%
87.07.4	Forks for fork lift trucks	30%	30%
87.07.9	Other, that is to say tractors of a kind used on railway station platforms, and parts therefor	6%	Free

EDB ext. 468/469/401

New Zealand

Vinyl floor coverings: Tariff and Development Board interim report

Copies of the above interim report are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division. Ref. CRE 1194/72 **CRE ext. 5321**

Leader of the Australian Trade Development Council's survey mission to the EEC, Mr. E. P. McClintock, with Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade (right). The mission completed its tour of EEC countries last month with a visit to the UK.

Customs tariff inquiries: deferment

Adhesives and sealants etc.
Recordings and recording media
Varnishes etc., paints etc., prepared driers etc.

At the request of parties to the inquiries on the goods mentioned above, the New Zealand Tariff and Development Board has postponed the public hearings (see *Trade and Industry*, 13 December 1973, pages 597-9). These will now take place on the dates listed below. The venue will be Hearing Room, Eighth Floor, Cumberland House, Upper Willis Street, Wellington.

Goods	Time and date of public hearing	Closing date for receipt of representations
Adhesives and sealants, etc., of ex tariff heading 25.20, tariff heading 32.12, ex tariff headings 35.01 and 35.03, tariff headings 33.05 and 35.06 and prepared glazings, etc., of tariff item 38.12.006	10.30 a.m. Tuesday 28 May 1974	30 April 1974
Recordings and recording media of tariff heading 92.12	10.30 a.m. Tuesday 2 July 1974	4 June 1974
Varnishes, etc., paints, etc., or ex tariff headings 32.09 and 32.10 and prepared driers, composite solvents, etc., of tariff headings 32.11 and 38.18	10.30 a.m. Tuesday 9 July 1974	11 June 1974

Ref. CRE 1222/73 **CRE ext. 5321**

Hong Kong

Excise duty and motor vehicle tax: budget changes

In his budget presented on 27 February 1974, the Hong Kong Financial Secretary announced the following changes in excise duty and motor vehicle taxation:

Liquor: excise duty increased by approximately 25 per cent ad valorem. Increases per gallon as follows:

Grape brandy	HK$24
Other spiritous liquor	HK$16.50
Sparkling wines	HK$11.00
Still wines	HK$5.00
Cider	HK$0.60
Imported beer	HK$0.30
Non-European wines	HK$3.00
Non-European spirits	HK$1.00
Local beer	HK$0.20
Non-European spirits (local)	HK$0.85

Tobacco: excise duty increased by approximately 25 per cent. Increases per pound weight as follows:

Unmanufactured tobacco	HK$2.00
Cigars	HK$2.80
Cigarettes	HK$2.70
Other manufactured tobacco	HK$2.20

The duty on locally prepared Chinese tobacco remains unchanged.

Vehicle first registration tax: increased from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of value of vehicle.

The additional Commonwealth Preference tax applied to non-Commonwealth vehicles remains 15 per cent.

No further information is yet available. **EDB ext. 469**

Canada

Terry towels and towelling: notice of inquiry

The Canadian Textile and Clothing Board is to re-examine the question whether or not imports of cotton terry towels and towelling present a threat to Canadian production. The Board's report of 9 May 1973 indicated that no serious injury had resulted from imports of these products at that time, but that there was a threat of serious injury which would have to be considered at a later date. Parties are invited to submit views or information to the Board by 13 May 1974. Copies of a News Release are available. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

Nuclear medicine applications

The Canadian Department of Health and Welfare has issued Information Letter 417 which states that as a result of the continually increasing use of radio pharmaceuticals in nuclear medicine it has become necessary to formulate specifications to control the quality of these preparations. As the proposed radionuclidic impurity limits apply at the time of patient injection, manufacturers of finished radio pharmaceuticals would have to ensure compliance with these specifications during the established shelf life of their product. Adequate directions would have to be included with technetium-99m generators, indicating the time beyond which the generator product should not be used. Full details are available and comments are invited by 15 April 1974. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act

The regulations referred to in *Trade and Industry*, 21 March, page 524, are now available from Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section, EDB. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

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Jamaica

Wines, spirits and motor spirit: consumption duty

The Jamaican Government announced in notice 28 of 23 January 1974 that consumption duty on wines, spirits and motor spirit would be as follows:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Unit for duty	Rate of duty
22.05.2	Sparkling wines	gallon	$7.3273
22.05.9	Other wines	gallon	$3.2973
22.06	Vermouth and other wines of fresh grapes flavoured with aromatic extracts	gallon	$3.2973
22.09.1	Brandy in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit	gallon	$16.6277
22.09.2	Other brandy	proof gallon	$20.4300
22.09.5	Whisky in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit	gallon	$18.1528
22.09.6	Other whisky	proof gallon	$22.2737
22.09.7	Gin in bottle of a strength not exceeding 80% proof spirit	gallon	$16.6277
22.09.8	Other gin	proof gallon	$20.4300
22.09.9	Other	gallon	$18.1862
ex 27.10	Motor spirit:		
	i with an octane rating of not less than 93 determined on the research method	gallon	33.9300 cents
	ii Other	gallon	32.4300 cents

EDB ext. 7312/474/476

Bolivia

Selective Consumption Tax

Bolivian Supreme Decree 11148 introduces a Selective Consumption Tax on a number of products, which fall within the following tariff numbers:

32.12 33.01 33.04 33.06 37.07 56.06 57.02 59.04 59.09 59.10 66.01 70.04 71.01 71.03 84.40 93.04 93.07

This tax is based on the *ad valorem* cif value at rates of 5 per cent or 10 per cent or 15 per cent. By specifying the products in which they are interested British exporters can obtain further details.

EDB ext. 474/476/7312

Colombia

Free Import Licence list: additions

Resolution 007 (1974) of the Colombian Foreign Trade Directive Council places a large number of goods on the Free Import Licence list. The following tariff numbers are affected:

23.07 25.13 25.26 25.30 25.32 28.06 28.13 28.15 28.21 28.30 28.32 28.37 28.39 28.40 28.49 28.58 29.01 29.02 29.08 29.11 29.14 29.15 29.16 29.23 40.01 40.11 47.01 48.01 48.07 56.04 70.15 73.13 73.15 73.20 78.04 78.06 82.04 82.07 82.09 82.11 82.13 84.08 84.15 84.16 84.22 84.37 84.45 84.49 84.63 85.01 85.11 85.14 85.22 86.01 86.02 86.03 86.04 86.09 90.03 98.04

By specifying the products in which they are interested British exporters can obtain further details from OTAR section, Export Data Branch. **EDB ext. 474/476/7312**

Chile

Exchange rates

The recently announced changes in exchange rates by the Chilean Central Bank have altered with effect from 11 March 1974. The 'Bank' rate is now 470 Escudos per US dollar. The exchange rate covering the conversion of export earnings from unprocessed copper has increased from 200 Escudos per US dollar to 235 Escudos per US dollar.

The 'Brokers' rate remains unchanged at 750 Escudos per US dollar. **CRE ext. 5289**

Uruguay

Exemptions from 18 per cent additional import tax:

Uruguayan Decree 1115/973, published in *Diario Oficial*. 19195, temporarily extends the total and partial exemptions from the 18 per cent additional import tax listed in Decree 470/973. The exemptions listed in Decree 1115/973 will remain in force until 30 June 1974 and apply only to specified goods when they were free of surcharge or when they pay a surcharge of up to 10 per cent. Goods which are exempted fall into three catogories: those which are free from the additional import tax; those which pay an additional tax of 10.8 per cent; and those which pay an additional tax of 2.7 per cent.

Two of three stamps marking Fiji's cricket centenary. On tour in 1948 Fiji defeated first-class cricketing New Zealand provinces, and in 1955 Suva, the capital, defeated the West Indies. P. A. Snow, English 1948 touring team captain and founder of the Suva and Fiji Cricket Associations, helped to design the stamps with Waddington's Studio. The set is lithography processed by Questa Colour Security Printers Ltd.

State Oil and Alcohol Monopoly imports: Uruguayan Decree 1128/973 exempts the State Oil and Alcohol Monopoly (ANCAP) during the period 1 January to 31 December 1974 from the 18 per cent additional import tax established in Article 173 of Law, 13637 of 21 December 1967 on imports of the following goods:

Crude petroleum and by-products
Lubricating oils and greases
Raw materials for the refining of fuels in accordance with the list established in Article 8 of Decree of 28 June 1962
Raw materials for the manufacture of lubricating oils and greases in accordance with the list established in Article 20 of Decree of 28 June 1962
Fire fighting materials and products
Pumps for liquids, engines, compressors, their parts and accessories; industrial machinery and plant, parts and accessories; taps, cocks and valves and their parts; angles flanges and joints for pipes; pipes of iron and/or steel; registering and measuring instruments; laboratory apparatus and parts; ball-bearings; destined for the petroleum, alcohol, Portland cement and chemical product industries.
Ethyl, methyl and amyl alcohol
Raw materials for the manufacture of alcohols
Gypsum
Fuses and explosives
Sulphur
Bauxite
Sodium nitrate

Imports made by ANCAP are exempted during the period 1 January to 31 December 1974 from prior deposits established under Article 3 of Decree 790/967 of 1 December 1967.

Consular duties to be paid for shipments of goods made by ANCAP during the period 1 January to 31 December 1974 will be liquidated in the following way:

a the exchange rate of 55 Uruguayan pesos per US $1 is fixed for calculating the valuation of consular rate charges;
b the consular value of the Uruguayan peso is fixed at US $0.50 for crude petrol.

Consular duties to be paid for shipments of goods made by ANCAP during the period 1 January to 31 December 1974 will be liquidated in the following way:

a the exchange rate of 55 Uruguayan pesos per US $1 is fixed for calculating the valuation of consular rate charges;
b the consular value of the Uruguayan peso is fixed at US $0.50 for crude petroleum and by-products, lead tetraethyl, alcohol and distilled product of fermented pomace, and US $1.05 for all other goods;
c the amount of Consular duties which are paid for in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Control Department of Consular Documents) in Montevideo, will be liquidated by the State Oil and Alcohol Monopoly (ANCAP) at the rate of exchange of 55 Uruguayan pesos per US $1 **EDB ext. 474/476/7312**

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1971	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9,223	2,129	2,087	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1969	97	98	98	93	92	416	320	42	13	445	−143	588
1970	99	100	100	100	100	257	175	68	38	692	−9	701
1971	100	103	100	92	101	−7	−218	52	21	1,067	285	782
1972	102	109	102	83	111	−394	−498	28	22	69	−677	746
1973	108	114	106	88	116	720	433	34	227	−1468	−2375	907
1971 2nd qtr	100	102	101	94	102	103	−113	26	7	288	105	183
3rd qtr	101	104	101	92	105	−18	67	9	15	380	172	208
4th qtr	101	105	101	88	102	—	−47	3	21	248	60	188
1972 1st qtr	100	106	103	88	105	−131	−156	15	−9	71	−121	192
2nd qtr	102	108	102	84	110	−100	−145	−12	40	112	−64	176
3rd qtr	102	110	102	81	110	−83	−125	4	−8	−116	−284	163
4th qtr	105	111	102	81	118	−80	−72	22	−1	+2	−208	210
1973 1st qtr	108	115	109	87	123	247	168	18	31	−186	−351	165
2nd qtr	108	112	102	84	107	209	87	−14	154	−196	−399	203
3rd qtr	108	114	107	91	116	120	79	18	22	−357	−606	249
4th qtr	108	114	108	92	121	144	98	14	20	−729 p	−1019 p	290 p
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs	+0.2	+0.1	+2.1	+6.5	+3.0							
on a year earlier	+4.5	+3.0	+5.5	+12.9	+3.5							

	Index of Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages	Index‡								monthly averages	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan 16, 1962		1970	1970	July 31, 1972				Series in £ million	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands		
1970	100.0	100.0	99.0	91.4	140.2	6.4	100.0	100.0	78.5	568	2.5	186	658	659
1971	100.3	99.5	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	733	709
1972	102.1	101.6	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	761	818
1973	110.1	110.6	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.1	123.2*	115.5	581	2.6	304	953	1,151
1972 2nd qtr	102.7	101.2	104.6	147	162.7	6.2	106.1	113.5	98.1	838	3.7	132	764	786
3rd qtr	102.5	101.8	107.2	139	165.4	6.5	109.4	115.6	102.2	808	3.6	147	684	779
4th qtr	105.4	104.9	109.5	144	169.4	7.7	115.6	118.0	107.8	750	3.3	179	871	940
1973 1st qtr	110.3	110.4	111.8	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.8	667	2.9	228	878	995
2nd qtr	109.9	110.2	108.0	136	177.9	9.3	133.4	120.1*	112.6	605	2.6	289	931	1,064
3rd qtr	110.8	111.4	110.5	143	180.2	9.2	150.5	124.2	118.4	562	2.5	334	995	1,197
4th qtr	109.3	110.4	112.3	119	186.8	10.3	166.6	129.1	120.9	489	2.2	364	1,008	1,348
1974 1st qtr										543p	2.4 p	285		
1973 Mar	111.8	112.6	114.0	151	173.4	8.2	129.4	120.0	109.5	635	2.8	252	863	1,074
Apr	109.6	109.7	106.9	138	176.7	9.2	130.5	118.8*	112.3	616	2.7	271	940	956
May	109.5	108.9	106.5	134	178.0	9.5	132.4	120.1	113.2	605	2.7	291	894	1,139
June	110.7	112.0	110.1	135	178.9	9.3	137.2	121.3	115.6	593	2.6	304	960	1,198
July	110.9	112.0	110.6	147	179.7	9.4	145.1	122.7	116.0	581	2.6	324	961	1,145
Aug	110.2	111.0	110.8	153	180.2	8.9	152.4	124.1	119.7	563	2.5	330	980	1,206
Sept	111.1	112.0	110.2	129	181.8	9.3	154.1	125.8	120.0	542	2.4	349	1,043	1,239
Oct	111.2	111.9	111.7	127	185.4	9.9	161.4	127.7	120.3	512	2.3	363	982	1,385
Nov	110.3	112.0	112.3	126	186.8	10.3	165.5	129.0	120.8	486	2.2	368	1,022	1,304
Dec	106.5	107.4	112.9	103	188.2	10.6	174.8	130.6	121.9	470	2.1	362	1,019	1,354
1974 Jan	99.7	100.2	109.5	93	191.8	12.0	202.7 p	134.1 p	122.8	535	2.4	304	1,015 p	1,398 p
Feb			110.5	109	101.7†	13.2	206.0 p	138.0 p		549	2.4	278	1,150 p	1,579 p
Mar										545 p	2.4 p	274 p		
% change last qtr on prev. qtr	−4.8	−4.6	−0.4	−20.2	+3.8		+21.3	+5.3	+1.5	+10.9		−21.7	+5	+10
on a year earlier	−0.9	−0.5	+0.3	−31.2	+11.9		+58.3	+14.2	+12.5	−18.6		+24.8	+21	+53

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan 1974 = 100

Index of retail prices for February

The index of retail prices for all items for 19 February 1974 was 101.7 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.7 per cent on January (100.0) and of 13.2 per cent on February 1973.

The rise of the all-items index in February was due to higher prices for petrol and oil and clothing, higher rents and higher prices for bread and some other goods and services. There were reductions in the price of eggs.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in Table 2.

Change of reference base

As previously announced, the reference base of the index has been changed to January 1974 as recommended by the Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee. This is a purely arithmetical change which makes no difference to the percentage change in the index month by month. The regular revisions of the index weights will also not be affected. Throughout 1974 the old and new indices will be published in parallel. These are given in Table 1.

The retail prices index measures the change from month to month in the average level of prices of goods and services purchased by most households in the United Kingdom. The expenditure of certain higher income households and households of retired people dependent mainly on social security benefits is excluded. The index covers a large and representative selection of goods and services for which price movements are measured in 200 towns throughout the country. The prices of nearly 350 separate goods and services are regularly collected and approximately 150,000 separate price quotations are used each month in compiling the index. The expenditure pattern on which the index is based is revised each year using information from the Family Expenditure Survey.

Seasonal variations in the index of retail prices are due largely to a very few items of 'seasonal food'. These items account for about 5 per cent of total retail expenditure. If the variation caused by these items is removed, the underlying trend of the figures can be seen more clearly.

Rates of change of indices can be calculated over periods of any length. However, rates calculated over periods as long as 12 months are slow to detect changes in trend, while calculations over periods as short as three months give rather volatile results. To help in assessing trends, rates of change in the index for all items, except seasonal food, are shown in Table 1 over successive periods of six months.

The index is given in full in the *Department of Employment Gazette*.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available
— nil or less than half the final digit shown
p provisional
r revised
* five week period
ø fifty-three week period

TABLE 2 General index of retail prices

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	15 January 1974	19 February 1974	
All items	100.0	101.7	+1.7
All items excluding food	100.0	102.0	+2.0
Food	100.0	100.9	+0.9
Seasonal food	100.0	97.6	−2.4
Other food	100.0	101.6	+1.6
Alcoholic drink	100.0	101.2	+1.2
Tobacco	100.0	100.9	+0.9
Housing	100.0	101.4	+1.4
Fuel and light	100.0	102.6	+2.6
Durable household goods	100.0	100.6	+0.6
Clothing and footwear	100.0	102.6	+2.6
Transport and vehicles	100.0	104.3	+4.3
Miscellaneous goods	100.0	102.0	+2.0
Services	100.0	100.6	+0.6
Meals out	100.0	101.0	+1.0

TABLE 1

	All items				All items except seasonal food			
	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Index 16 January 1962 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Index 16 January 1962 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1973 September		181.8	+0.9	+ 9.3	..	180.4	+0.8	+4.9
October		185.4	+2.0	+ 9.9		183.5	+1.7	+5.1
November		186.8	+0.8	+10.3		184.9	+0.8	+5.4
December		188.2	+0.7	+10.6		186.1	+0.6	+5.3
1974 January	100.0	191.8	+1.9	+12.0	100.0	189.4	+1.8	+6.5
February	101.7	195.1	+1.7	+13.2	101.9	193.0	+1.9	+7.8

Weekly indicators of industrial output

For the time being indicators of output in some industrial sectors are being assembled where information is readily available. The following table presents the latest data available, at the time of going to press, together with similar figures for January, February, November and December 1973. It should be borne in mind that weekly figures of output are particularly susceptible to fluctuation and that figures for the corresponding period of 1973 or for the average over the whole of that year may equally be unrepresentative of a normal position. Output of cars and commercial vehicles in 1973, for example, was much reduced by industrial disputes.

Index numbers of output

Average 1973 = 100 : not seasonally adjusted

	Weekly averages				Week ending										
	Jan. 1963	Feb. 1973	Nov. 1973	Dec. 1973	12 Jan. 1974	19 Jan. 1974	26 Jan. 1974	2 Feb. 1974	9 Feb. 1974	16 Feb. 1974	23 Feb. 1974	2 Mar. 1974	9 Mar. 1974	16 Mar. 1974	23 Mar. 1974
Ethylene	90	99	98	92	106	112	114	106	103	105	108	106	114	116	110
Crude steel	102	107	107	84	78	77	88	86	88	80	79	77	72	76	84
Passenger cars	118	103	115	95	84	76	99	101	93	88	90	92	79	93	109
Commercial vehicles	103	105	97	100	71	73	80	91	76	83	82	85	78	95	97
Cement	84	93	105	79	60	68	75	71	77	88	85	97	102	104	92
Coal	108	110	92	64	72	71	69	63	46	6	..	..	..	78	92
Gas sent out	130	125	125	146	145	141	142	143	150	143	143	151	151	148	137
Television sets															
Monochrome	135	125	98	68	75	74	79	76	79	81	84	77	84	87	82
Colour	92	92	120	101	104	107	107	100	102	103	109	105	107	105	109

.. not available.

Notes:
(i) In some cases, the average weekly production in 1973 is partly estimated.
(ii) Output in December 1973 and in week ending 5 January was also affected by holidays.

The February current account of balance of payments

In February 1974 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £347 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £429 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £82 million.

Current account: three monthly analysis

In the three months December 1973-February 1974 the current account deficit averaged £295 million a month compared with £201 million a month in the previous three months.

£ million per month seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: trade in goods	Invisible balance: services and other transactions (See Note 1(g))
1973 1st quarter	− 62	−117	+55
2nd quarter	− 65	−133	+68
3rd quarter	−119	−202	+83
4th quarter	−243	−340	+97
1973/74 Nov.–Jan.	−241	−333	+92*
Dec.–Feb.	−295	−382	+87*

* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available. The balance will have been affected during recent months by short-time working but this cannot be quantified at present.

Visible trade

(a) Summary. In February there was a deficit on visible trade of £429 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £1,150 million and the value of imports was £1,579 million.

The cost of oil contributed significantly to this deficit – see section (c) below. In addition, trade must have been affected during this period by short time working but this cannot be quantified. Imports were at a very high level probably reflecting shortages in home supplies. On the other hand, the value of exports was unexpectedly high.

In the three months December 1973-February 1974, the deficit on visible trade averaged £382 million a month compared with £293 million a month in the previous three months.

(b) Exports. The value of exports in February was £1,150 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payment basis. The large rise from the January figure of £1,015 million was widely distributed over commodities and areas.

For the three months December to February exports averaged £1,062 million a month, 5 per cent higher than in the previous three months. Between these periods exports to Western Europe increased

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million per month

	Exports (fob) (r)	Imports (fob) (r)	Visible balance (r)
1972	761	818	− 57
1973	953	1,151	−198
1972 1st quarter	726	766	− 40
2nd quarter	764	786	− 22
3rd quarter	684	779	− 95
4th quarter	871	940	− 69
1973 1st quarter	878	995	−117
2nd quarter	931	1,064	−133
3rd quarter	995	1,197	−202
4th quarter	1,008	1,348	−340
September	1,043	1,239	−196
October	982	1,385	−403
November	1,022	1,304	−282
December	1,019	1,354	−335
1974 January p	1,015	1,398	−383
February p	1,150	1,579	−429
1973 Sept.-Nov.	1,016	1,309	−293
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,062	1,444	−382

p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates (see Note 1 (h)).

TABLE 2 Exports

Seasonally adjusted values § — £ million per month

	Overseas trade statistics basis (fob) (r)	Coverage adjustments (r)	Net allowance for factors affecting recording †	Balance of payments basis (fob) (r)
1972	812	− 51	—	761
1973	1,038	− 85	—	953
1972 1st quarter	773	− 48	—	726
2nd quarter	813	− 49	—	764
3rd quarter	733	− 49	—	684
4th quarter	929	− 59	—	871
1973 1st quarter	945	− 68	—	878
2nd quarter	1,005	− 73	—	931
3rd quarter	1,084	− 89	—	995
4th quarter	1,117	−110	—	1,008
September	1,134	− 91	—	1,043
October	1,089	−107	—	982
November	1,137	−115	—	1,022
December	1,126	−107	—	1,019
1974 January p	1,097	− 82	—	1,015
February p	1,253	−103	—	1,150
1973 Sept.-Nov.	1,120	−104	—	1,016
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,159	− 97	—	1,062

§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
† See Note 1 (e).
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates. (see Note 1 (h)).

TABLE 3 Imports

Seasonally adjusted values § — £ million per month

	Overseas trade statistics basis (cif) (r)	Adjustments to balance of payments basis: Freight insurance and other valuation adjustments (r)	Adjustments to balance of payments basis: Coverage adjustments ‡ (r)	Balance of payments basis (fob) (r)
1972	928	− 86	−24	818
1973	1,321	−114	−56	1,151
1972 1st quarter	877	− 81	−30	766
2nd quarter	891	− 86	−19	786
3rd quarter	888	− 82	−27	779
4th quarter	1,057	− 94	−23	940
1973 1st quarter	1,130	−102	−33	995
2nd quarter	1,226	−110	−52	1,064
3rd quarter	1,388	−118	−73	1,197
4th quarter	1,541	−128	−65	1,348
September	1,445	−121	−86	1,239
October	1,574	−139	−51	1,385
November	1,515	−126	−85	1,304
December	1,533	−119	−60	1,354
1974 January p	1,571	−138	−35	1,398
February p	1,807	−152	−76	1,579
1973 Sept.-Nov.	1,511	−129	−74	1,309
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,637	−136	−57	1,444

§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates. (see Note 1 (h)).
‡ Including adjustments for arrivals of and payments for United States military aircraft up to the end of 1972.

TABLE 4 Recorded values

Overseas trade statistics basis

£ million per month

	Exports fob ††	Imports cif ‡
1972 1st quarter	770.7	905.7
2nd quarter	843.9	910 6
3rd quarter	683.3	850.0
4th quarter	950.7	1,052.1
1973 1st quarter	942.6	1,189.6
2nd quarter	1,024.9	1,240.8
3rd quarter	1,018.7	1,313.2
4th quarter	1,165.5	1,541.1
December	1,070.5	1,421.3
1974 January p	1,081.9	1,644.4
February p	1,180.4	1,697.1

†† No adjustment has been made in this table for special factors affecting the recording of exports (see Note 1(e)).
‡ Including arrivals of US military aircraft up to the end of 1972.
p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 5 Exports: Areas¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob per month

	Total	Sterling area outside Europe	Western Europe inc. Irish Republic			North America	Latin America	Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	Rest of world
			Total	EEC	EFTA				
1973	1,038	183	524	336	146	161	30	27	110
1973 1st qtr.	945	170	460	292	130	161	30	26	96
2nd qtr.	1,005	183	494	320	137	161	29	27	107
3rd qtr.	1,084	190	551	354	151	158	30	29	119
4th qtr.	1,117	189	589	377	164	165	30	26	118
Dec.	1,126	190	587	383	146	170	32	23	127
1974 Jan. p	1,097	201	566	372	153	156	26	30	118
Feb. p	1,253	210	625	407	170	175	39	30	129
1973 Sep.-Nov.	1,120	192	589	372	172	162	29	30	115
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,159	200	593	387	156	167	32	28	124

¶ See Note 1(b).
p Provisional estimates.

by 1 per cent (with deliveries to the EEC 4 per cent higher) and those to North America by 3 per cent. Shipments to the Sterling area outside Europe rose by 5 per cent while exports to the rest of the world in aggregate were 6 per cent higher.

Among the major commodity groups exports of chemicals rose by 14 per cent between the three-month periods September-November 1973 and December 1973-February 1974, while deliveries of metals and metal manufactures were 9 per cent higher. Shipments of textiles rose by 13 per cent. Deliveries of machinery and transport equipment were unchanged between the two periods. Exports of non-manufactured goods in total increased by 10 per cent.

(c) Imports. The value of imports in February was £1,579 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis. Much of the rise from the January figure of £1,398 million was attributable to higher imports of fuels and semi-manufactured goods.

The value of fuels imported rose by £84 million cif between January and February (from £263 million to £347 million) due to a rise in the price of crude oil. In February the landed price of crude oil was £29 per ton cif compared with £21 per ton in January and £10 per tons in the first half of 1973 (see Table 9).

In the three months ending February, imports averaged £1,444 million a month, 10 per cent higher than in the previous three months. Imports of fuels rose by 57 per cent and other imports in total by 3 per cent between the two periods. Arrivals of semi-manufactured goods rose by 12 per cent whereas imports of finished manufactures increased by less than 1 per cent. Most other major commodity groups showed only small changes but there was a fall of 11 per cent in imports of transport equipment.

Among the major sources of our imports, arrivals from Western Europe increased by 3 per cent between the three months ending February and the previous three months with imports from the EEC rising by 8 per cent. Imports from the Sterling area outside Europe were 4 per cent higher and there was an increase of 11 per cent in deliveries from North America. From the rest of the world, in aggregate, imports increased by 31 per cent, in part due to the higher imports of fuels.

Notes

1(a) Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special US Exim Bank credit. (The values involved are now small.) All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual *Pink Book, United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1973* (Table 6 and pp. 62-66) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

1(b) The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports, and cannot be estimated for the area and commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 5 to 8 are available only on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis and correspond with the totals given in the first columns of Tables 2 and 3. Whereas comment on total trade relates to total exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in Tables 5 to 8. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is

TABLE 6 Exports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob per month

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Manufactures									
					Total	Machinery and transport equipment				Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
						Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment					
1973	1,038	73	36	31	871	398	268	92	38	106	109	49	209	27
1973 1st quarter	945	66	34	22	798	373	256	88	32	97	102	44	184	23
2nd quarter	1,005	71	35	22	853	393	267	88	33	102	106	49	205	25
3rd quarter	1,084	78	35	38	907	416	279	92	43	108	109	51	223	27
4th quarter	1,117	77	40	41	928	410	272	99	44	117	120	52	225	32
December	1,126	75	38	42	928	400	262	104	39	117	120	53	228	38
1974 January p	1,097	73	47	46	895	413	292	93	33	130	126	56	170	28
February p	1,253	106	53	46	1,027	452	312	97	42	147	137	64	222	23
1973 Sept.-Nov.	1,120	80	40	40	936	419	278	96	45	115	117	51	231	29
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,159	85	46	45	950	421	289	98	38	131	127	58	207	30

¶ See Note 1(b)
p Provisional estimates

more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

1(e) Recording of exports. The new system for the documentation of exports to ensure their full recording has applied to goods shipped from 25 October 1971 (see *Trade and Industry*, 19 August 1971).

Regular assessments of the quality of recording under the new system have shown that, since the beginning of 1972, there has been no need to make adjustments to the export figures for either a shortfall in documentation or a change in the speed of submission of documents.

The new system for recording exports and the methods used to monitor its accuracy are described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the ship-

TABLE 7 Imports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif per month

		Industrial materials				Finished manufactures					
							Machinery and transport equipment				
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Other	Miscellaneous
1973	1,321	258	144	520	164	75	282	386	198	54	22	112	13
1973 1st quarter	1,130	233	111	447	146	63	238	331	171	49	18	92	10
2nd quarter	1,226	246	127	477	154	67	256	355	183	47	16	107	11
3rd quarter	1,388	268	153	543	169	80	294	412	210	64	25	116	14
4th quarter	1,541	279	185	615	185	90	340	447	227	57	29	131	15
December	1,533	279	188	620	170	85	365	452	225	56	34	135	13
1974 January p	1,571	271	263	616	183	98	334	421	227	41	19	130	12
February p	1,807	280	347	696	198	114	384	459	242	57	23	134	13
1973 Sept.-Nov.	1,511	278	169	599	189	89	320	441	225	58	29	127	16
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,637	277	266	644	183	99	361	444	231	52	25	133	13

¶ See Note 1(b)
p Provisional estimates

TABLE 8 Imports: Areas¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif per month

	Total	Sterling area outside Europe	Western Europe inc. Irish Republic			North America	Latin America	Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	Rest of World
			Total	EEC	EFTA				
1973	1,321	235	660	433	198	196	40	46	142
1973 1st quarter	1,130	204	553	360	168	181	36	45	112
2nd quarter	1,226	222	609	408	176	180	38	40	136
3rd quarter	1,388	234	714	466	221	197	42	47	152
4th quarter	1,541	282	763	498	225	228	45	51	166
December	1,533	290	754	496	220	235	44	55	161
1974 January p	1,571	256	743	500	212	231	41	57	229
February	1,807	291	860	596	241	242	43	60	300
1973 Sept.-Nov.	1,511	269	765	491	237	213	45	49	159
Dec.-Feb. 1974 p	1,637	279	786	531	224	236	43	57	230

p Provisional estimates
¶ See Note 1(b)

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TABLE 9 Imports of petroleum and petroleum products(1)
Division 33 of SITC (R)

Seasonally adjusted (2) — Monthly averages

	Total	Crude oil			Rest of division (5)
	£ million cif	£ million cif	Million tons (3)	Average value per ton £ cif (4)	£ million cif
1968	73	49	6.5	7.5	24
1969	74	53	7.5	7.1	21
1970	77	57	8.3	6.9	20
1971	99	77	8.8	8.8	22
1972	97	76	8.6	8.9	21
1973	140	108	9.4	11.5	32
1st quarter	107	79	8.1	9.7	28
2nd quarter	124	95	9.4	10.1	29
3rd quarter	150	112	10.1	11.1	38
4th quarter	180	146	9.8	14.9	34
December	182	152	8.5	17.8	30
1974 January	256	210	9.9	21.2	46
February	343	275	9.4	29.4	68
1973 Sept.-Nov.	165	129	9.8	13.1	36
Dec.-Feb. 1974	260	213	9.3	22.8	47

NOTES:

(1) The total shown in the table represents about 97 per cent of imports of fuels shown in table 7.

(2) The figures of value and tonnage have been seasonally adjusted using the same seasonal adjustment factors as have been used for the fuels total in table 7. The average per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage: since both figures have been seasonally adjusted by the same factors the average value per ton is the same as would be obtained by using the actual figures of the value and tonnage of imports.

(3) It should be noted that for two reasons the crude oil tonnages quoted above cannot be compared directly with import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy (formerly part of the Department of Trade and Industry) and published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics and Digest of Energy Statistics*. First, the trade account data are adjusted by seasonal and length of working month factors. Secondly, the trade accounts are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise whereas the Department of Energy's figures are received directly from the oil industry. These two sources have different reporting procedures and over periods as short as one month these can give rise to different estimates of crude oil imports. Over longer periods the differences are largely resolved.

(4) The average value per ton, obtained on a cif basis will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil, or to differing sources of consignment.

(5) Includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

ment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(g) The invisible balance (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including transport, travel and banking and financial transactions; net overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers.

1(h) Revisions. The seasonally adjusted figures contained in this article have been revised from those published hitherto following further analysis of the series taking into account the full year's data for 1973. An article in *Trade and Industry* dated 17 February 1971 describes the general method used in seasonally adjusting the trade data. Some revisions have also been made to the series of total imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in light of later information used in the process of adjusting the trade data on an *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis on to a balance of payments basis.

2. Overseas Trade Statistics. Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for February with cumulative totals will be published in due course† and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables in the *Monthly Digest* for April,‡ due to be published in the second week of May.

† *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, February 1974 to be published by HMSO, price £1.85 (annual subscription £25.05).

‡ *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price 63p (annual subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage, £8.60).

Made-up clothing: orders and deliveries

After a very buoyant period in the first half year net new orders received by the clothing industry declined sharply in the third quarter but then recovered partially in the fourth when they were estimated to have been 5 per cent higher than in the preceding three months. In the year as a whole new orders were estimated to have been 13 per cent above the 1972 average. Deliveries in the fourth quarter were also higher (by 4 per cent) than in the third quarter and over the year were 8 per cent higher than in 1972. Orders on hand were at a high level throughout 1973 and at the end of December were 27 per cent above December 1972.

(These comparisons are based on the seasonally adjusted series in the accompanying table.)

Made-up clothing

Index numbers of the volume of total orders and deliveries

	Orders-on-hand (end period)	Net new orders		Deliveries	
	December 1969 = 100	Average 1970 Deliveries = 100		Average 1970 Deliveries = 100	
1968	107	100		97	
1969	100	97		97	
1970	103	102		100	
1971	119	108		104	
1972	125	110		109	
1973 p	159	124		118	
	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1971 1st quarter	100	106	110	107	104
2nd quarter	123	117	111	101	104
3rd quarter	103	92	101	103	104
4th quarter	119	117	109	105	104
1972 1st quarter	107	99	105	107	105
2nd quarter	124	117	110	104	106
3rd quarter	112	100	112	108	109
4th quarter	125	124	113	116	115
1973 1st quarter	144	126	131	116	112
2nd quarter	175	136	131	116	120
3rd quarter p	151	103	114	116	117
4th quarter p	159	132	120	123	122
1972 January	115	91	105	99	109
February	110	98	104	106	101
March	107	109	106	115	105
April	109	117	115	109	106
May	129	141	116	101	106
June	124	92	98	103	105
July	113	83	101	106	110
August	116	101	128	97	108
September	112	116	108	122	110
October	124	150	121	130	115
November	137	148	119	122	116
December	125	73	99	95	114
1973 January	137	116	134	100	111
February	137	125	132	124	118
March	144	137	126	123	108
April	155	138	142	120	123
May	169	141	114	112	117
June	175	129	138	117	119
July p	162	91	111	112	118
August p	158	98	122	103	115
September p	151	119	110	131	118
October p	162	168	134	140	123
November p	168	144	115	131	124
December p	159	84	112	98	117

The metric change

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Capital expenditure of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries in the fourth quarter of 1973

Manufacturing industry

The estimate of manufacturing industry's capital expenditure in the fourth quarter of 1973 has been revised upwards by £2 million to £489 million, at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted. Estimates for the other quarters of the year have also been revised slightly, but expenditure in the year as a whole is still 6 per cent above the 1972 figure. There were increases of 8 per cent in expenditure both on plant and machinery and on vehicles, and a fall of 1 per cent in expenditure on new building work.

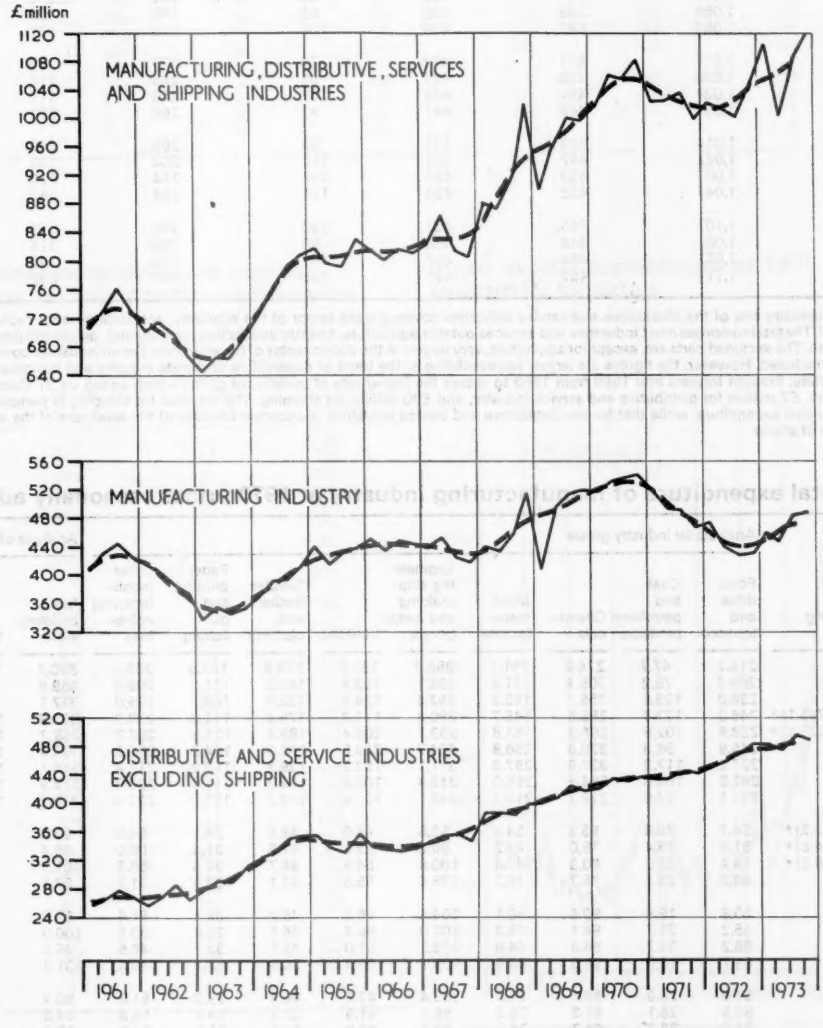
There were large increases in expenditure during 1973 in the textiles, leather and clothing group (39 per cent), the engineering, shipbuilding and metal goods group (30 per cent) and the vehicles group (27 per cent). Smaller increases of 7 to 10 per cent occurred in the food, drink and tobacco group, the paper, printing and publishing group and the residual group of other manufacturing industries. Against the overall trend, there were falls in expenditure by the coal and petroleum products group (29 per cent), the chemicals group (17 per cent) and the metal manufacturing group (14 per cent).

Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)

The provisional estimate for investment by these industries in the fourth quarter of 1973 has been revised upwards by £7 million to £491 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted – slightly lower than in the previous quarter, but a little above the corresponding level a year earlier. Over the year, investment in 1973 was some 4 per cent higher than in 1972, and this increase was attributable to gains of 11 per cent for investment in vehicles, and 9 per cent, for plant and machinery, partly offset by a fall of 4 per cent in respect of new building work.

In the classification according to industry groups, the increase in investment was particularly marked for retail distribution, while investment in wholesale distribution was well maintained. Expenditure by the residual group of industries showed a modest rise.

Fixed capital expenditure at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted



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Shipping industry

Revised figures indicate that investment by this industry reached £139 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1973, well above the level of the previous quarter, but still below the figure recorded for the first quarter. Investment in 1973 was about 8 per cent higher than in the previous year.

TABLE 1 Fixed capital expenditure at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industrial sectors: Manufacturing industries	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1965	3,236	1,732	1,378	126	988	565	1,684
1966	3,244	1,780	1,344	120	954	556	1,733
1967	3,307	1,735	1,402	169	932	603	1,772
1968	3,689 (3,601)*	1,846 (1,795)*	1,553 (1,546)*	290 (260)*	950	759 (729)*	1,980 (1,922)*
1969	3,857 (3,945)*	1,976 (2,027)*	1,649 (1,656)*	232 (262)*	1,042	724 (754)*	2,091 (2,149)*
1970	4,217	2,129	1,723	364	1,068	850	2,299
1971	4,085	1,968	1,752	365	1,083	816	2,186
1972	4,089	1,775	1,861	454	1,065	947	2,077
1973	4,317	1,887	1,938	492	1,032	1,051	2,234
1969 1st quarter	898 (963)*	448 (483)*	400 (405)*	49 (74)*	252	171 (196)*	475 (515)*
2nd quarter	961 (977)*	496 (505)*	407 (409)*	58 (63)*	260	183 (188)*	519 (530)*
3rd quarter	1,001 (1,008)*	513 (520)*	424	64	272	184	545 (552)*
4th quarter	997	519	417	61	258	186	553
1970 1st quarter	1,016	515	421	80	254	203	559
2nd quarter	1,062	534	435	93	269	216	577
3rd quarter	1,056	538	430	88	266	209	580
4th quarter	1,083	542	438	104	279	222	582
1971 1st quarter	1,017	511	434	73	277	183	557
2nd quarter	1,030	498	433	99	268	214	548
3rd quarter	1,038	491	445	102	270	215	553
4th quarter	1,000	468	441	91	268	204	527
1972 1st quarter	1,014	466	449	99	269	209	536
2nd quarter	1,022	447	459	116	264	236	522
3rd quarter	1,007	430	469	107	264	236	507
4th quarter	1,047	432	484	131	268	267	512
1973 1st quarter	1,107	465	481	160	263	295	549
2nd quarter	1,004	448	468	88	253	218	534
3rd quarter	1,087	484	498	105	270	249	569
4th quarter	1,119	489	491	139	247	289	583

The total of manufacturing industry and of the distributive and service industries covers a wide sector of the economy, accounting—after exclusion of dwellings—for 53 per cent of total expenditure in 1972. The total comprises most industries and services outside agriculture, forestry and fishing, coal mining, public utilities, the public transport corporations and the public administration. The excluded parts are, except for agriculture, very largely in the public sector of the economy. For all industries covered, public expenditure (eg by the British Steel Corporation) is included. However, the figures are largely representative of the trend of expenditure of private industry and business.

* After allowing for expenditure, brought forward into 1968 from 1969 to secure the higher rate of investment grants which ended on 31 December 1968, estimated at £51 million for manufacturing industry, £7 million for distributive and service industry, and £30 million for shipping. The estimate for shipping is particularly uncertain because of the erratic nature of this industry's capital expenditure, while that for the distributive and service industries is uncertain because of the smallness of the effect.

For other footnotes, see end of article.

TABLE 2 Fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total all manufacturing industries	Analysis by industry group: Food drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals	Metal manufacture	Engineering shipbuilding and metal goods	Vehicles	Textiles leather and clothing	Paper printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Analysis of type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1965	1,732.2	216.1	47.7	274.6	151.1	356.3	181.6	173.8	127.5	203.5	390.2	102.2	1,239.8
1966	1,780.1	204.3	78.2	305.4	151.9	363.1	193.8	165.0	111.5	206.9	369.8	98.3	1,312.0
1967	1,735.2	236.0	123.6	255.7	155.3	352.5	194.5	132.9	108.7	176.0	317.1	99.5	1,318.6
1968	1,846.1 (1,795.1)*	246.0	127.4	255.5	145.7	390.8	171.9	176.4	111.8	220.9	330.8	109.2	1,406.1 (1,355.1)*
1969	1,976.1 (2,027.1)*	238.6	102.9	296.3	167.8	393.7	208.4	189.4	121.3	257.7	388.7	115.9	1,471.5 (1,522.5)*
1970	2,128.9	245.9	86.3	378.3	256.8	424.7	229.5	172.3	134.2	201.3	393.4	116.1	1,619.4
1971	1,967.6	227.2	117.3	337.6	297.3	371.1	152.2	139.3	113.2	212.4	344.7	107.7	1,515.2
1972	1,775.0	262.5	108.8	264.6	255.0	343.4	108.4	114.7	111.4	206.2	318.9	128.9	1,327.2
1973	1,886.8	281.1	77.0	219.7	219.2	446.1	137.8	159.5	119.0	227.4	316.2	139.0	1,431.6
1969 1st quarter	448.2 (483.2)*	56.7	28.8	65.3	34.5	92.0	44.0	48.0	24.1	54.8	93.2	26.7	328.3 (363.3)*
2nd quarter	495.6 (504.6)*	61.8	25.4	75.0	40.2	95.3	53.9	47.6	31.4	65.0	96.4	30.7	368.5 (377.5)*
3rd quarter	513.2 (520.2)*	59.4	25.0	80.3	46.4	100.8	54.9	46.7	33.5	66.2	101.3	29.2	382.7 (389.7)*
4th quarter	519.1	60.7	23.7	75.7	46.7	105.6	55.6	47.1	32.3	71.7	97.8	29.3	392.0
1970 1st quarter	515.0	60.8	19.9	90.6	50.1	104.4	56.2	45.2	36.4	51.4	93.8	29.6	391.6
2nd quarter	534.2	65.2	21.7	94.1	58.2	107.0	58.4	45.1	33.6	50.9	100.0	29.3	404.9
3rd quarter	538.2	56.2	26.2	95.3	64.6	108.2	61.0	45.1	32.1	49.5	98.4	29.3	410.5
4th quarter	541.5	63.7	18.5	98.3	83.5	105.1	53.9	36.9	32.1	49.5	101.2	27.9	412.4
1971 1st quarter	510.7	57.0	25.9	89.6	71.0	103.4	42.8	40.5	29.3	51.2	90.4	26.4	393.9
2nd quarter	497.7	55.6	26.1	81.3	75.2	96.1	41.3	37.5	29.8	54.8	86.8	26.5	384.4
3rd quarter	491.0	56.7	32.2	84.7	78.0	89.2	36.9	31.2	27.5	54.6	82.4	26.7	381.9
4th quarter	468.2	57.9	33.1	82.0	73.1	82.4	31.2	30.1	26.6	51.8	85.1	28.1	355.0
1972 1st quarter	466.3	61.5	33.1	76.0	79.1	82.4	29.9	25.6	25.4	53.3	83.4	29.2	353.7
2nd quarter	446.5	62.6	30.7	70.8	68.5	81.9	24.4	28.1	27.4	52.1	81.0	30.2	335.3
3rd quarter	430.4	68.0	23.8	62.3	54.1	88.0	25.0	29.6	28.8	50.8	79.2	32.9	318.3
4th quarter	431.8	70.4	21.2	55.5	53.3	91.1	29.1	31.4	29.8	50.0	75.3	36.6	319.9
1973 1st quarter	465.3	74.9	18.6	56.9	58.4	102.9	32.8	36.1	30.8	53.9	77.3	34.4	353.6
2nd quarter	448.2	61.5	21.5	57.7	44.7	111.4	31.7	33.9	29.0	56.8	73.6	31.8	342.8
3rd quarter	484.3	67.4	16.4	52.6	60.6	116.7	36.4	43.7	30.4	60.1	81.9	34.9	367.5
4th quarter	489.0	77.3	20.5	52.5	55.5	115.1	36.9	45.8	28.8	56.6	83.4	37.9	367.7

TABLE 3 Fixed capital expenditure in the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

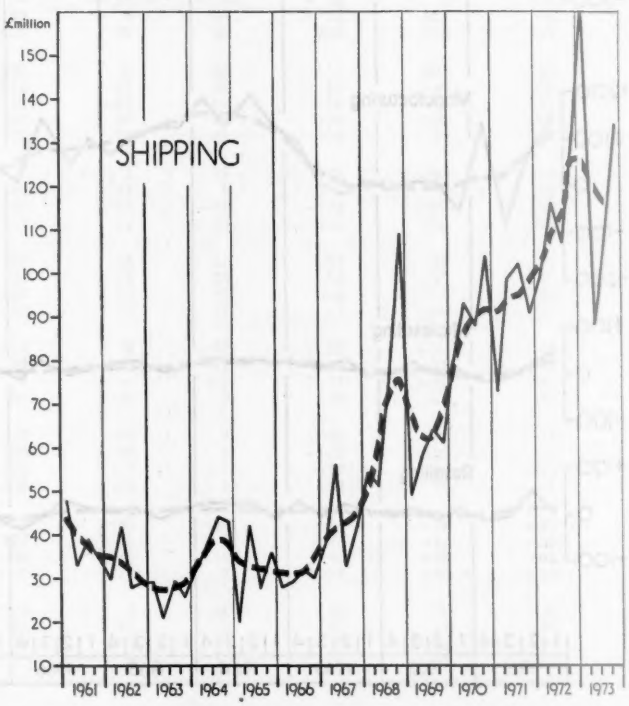
Period	Total	Analysis by industry group			Analysis by type of asset		
		Wholesale distribution	Retail distribution	Other industries	New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1965	1,378	164	257	957	592	342	444
1966	1,344	148	232	964	580	342	421
1967	1,402	169	224	1,008	611	338	453
1968	1,553 (1,546)*	165	282	1,107 (1,100)*	616	367	570 (563)*
1969	1,649 (1,656)*	160	295	1,194 (1,201)*	649	384	615 (622)*
1970	1,723	176	299	1,249	670	383	671
1971	1,752	185	310	1,258	736	355	661
1972	1,861	177	370	1,314	744	387	730
1973	1,938	178	411	1,349	714	429	794
1969 1st quarter	400 (405)*	39	72	289 (294)*	158	97	146 (151)*
2nd quarter	407 (409)*	39	72	296 (298)*	162	96	150 (152)*
3rd quarter	424	41	73	310	170	93	160
4th quarter	417	41	78	299	160	99	159
1970 1st quarter	421	44	76	301	159	95	167
2nd quarter	435	46	74	315	167	98	171
3rd quarter	430	45	75	309	166	96	167
4th quarter	438	41	74	323	177	95	166
1971 1st quarter	434	45	76	313	185	87	161
2nd quarter	433	46	80	307	181	92	161
3rd quarter	445	46	78	321	187	90	168
4th quarter	441	48	76	317	183	87	171
1972 1st quarter	449	44	83	322	184	90	174
2nd quarter	459	44	89	326	183	94	182
3rd quarter	469	41	96	333	184	99	186
4th quarter	484	49	103	332	192	103	189
1973 1st quarter	482	48	96	337	185	106	191
2nd quarter	468	44	103	321	179	99	190
3rd quarter	498	43	108	347	187	111	199
4th quarter	491	44	104	344	163	114	214

TABLE 4 Fixed capital expenditure at current prices of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry
1965	2,692	1,423	1,169	100
1966	2,787	1,517	1,172	99
1967	2,862	1,485	1,237	140
1968	3,306	1,639	1,420	247
1969	3,599	1,822	1,559	217
1970	4,217	2,129	1,723	364
1971	4,438	2,161	1,893	384
1972	4,758	2,092	2,146	520
1973	5,570	2,449	2,494	627
1969 1st quarter	791	382	372	38
2nd quarter	871	438	381	53
3rd quarter	917	473	386	57
4th quarter	1,020	530	420	70
1970 1st quarter	938	465	403	71
2nd quarter	1,033	511	427	95
3rd quarter	1,043	547	419	77
4th quarter	1,202	607	474	122
1971 1st quarter	1,027	517	446	65
2nd quarter	1,080	514	458	108
3rd quarter	1,117	553	471	94
4th quarter	1,214	578	517	119
1972 1st quarter	1,109	521	497	91
2nd quarter	1,152	490	522	139
3rd quarter	1,144	514	524	106
4th quarter	1,354	567	603	184
1973 1st quarter	1,327	568	594	165
2nd quarter	1,255	538	595	121
3rd quarter	1,364	632	618	115
4th quarter	1,623	711	687	225

Fixed capital expenditure at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted



NOTES TO TABLES

Capital expenditure comprises expenditure on vehicles (including ships) and plant and machinery less receipts from sales of these assets, and on new building work.

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification Revised 1968 edition:

Manufacturing Orders III to XIX
Distributive Trades Order XXIII
Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by finance houses and similar businesses)
Retail MLH 820, 821
Other Industries Order XX (Construction); XXII (Transport and Communication) excluding 701—Railways, 706—Port and Inland Water Transport, 707—Air Transport and 708—Postal Services and Telecommunications; XXIV (Insurance, Banking, Finance and Business Services) including leasing by Finance Houses and similar Businesses and excluding Trustee Savings Banks; XXV (Professional and Scientific Services) excluding 872—Educational Services and 874—Medical and Dental Services; and XXVI (Miscellaneous Services).

The estimates, with the exception of those for manufacturing industry in Table 2, are shown to the nearest £m but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3 because of the margins of error involved in the quarterly seasonal adjustments. Also, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks in the fourth quarter of 1973

Manufacturing industry

The provisional estimate of £135 million for manufacturers' stock-building in the fourth quarter of 1973 has been revised downwards to £98 million, at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted. This leads to a revised annual increase of £433 million at 1970 prices.

Stocks of materials and fuel rose substantially both in the fourth quarter and in the year as a whole, following two years of heavy destocking. There was also a substantial rise in work in progress in 1973, more than compensating for the destocking in 1972. Stocks of finished goods however fell slightly during the year.

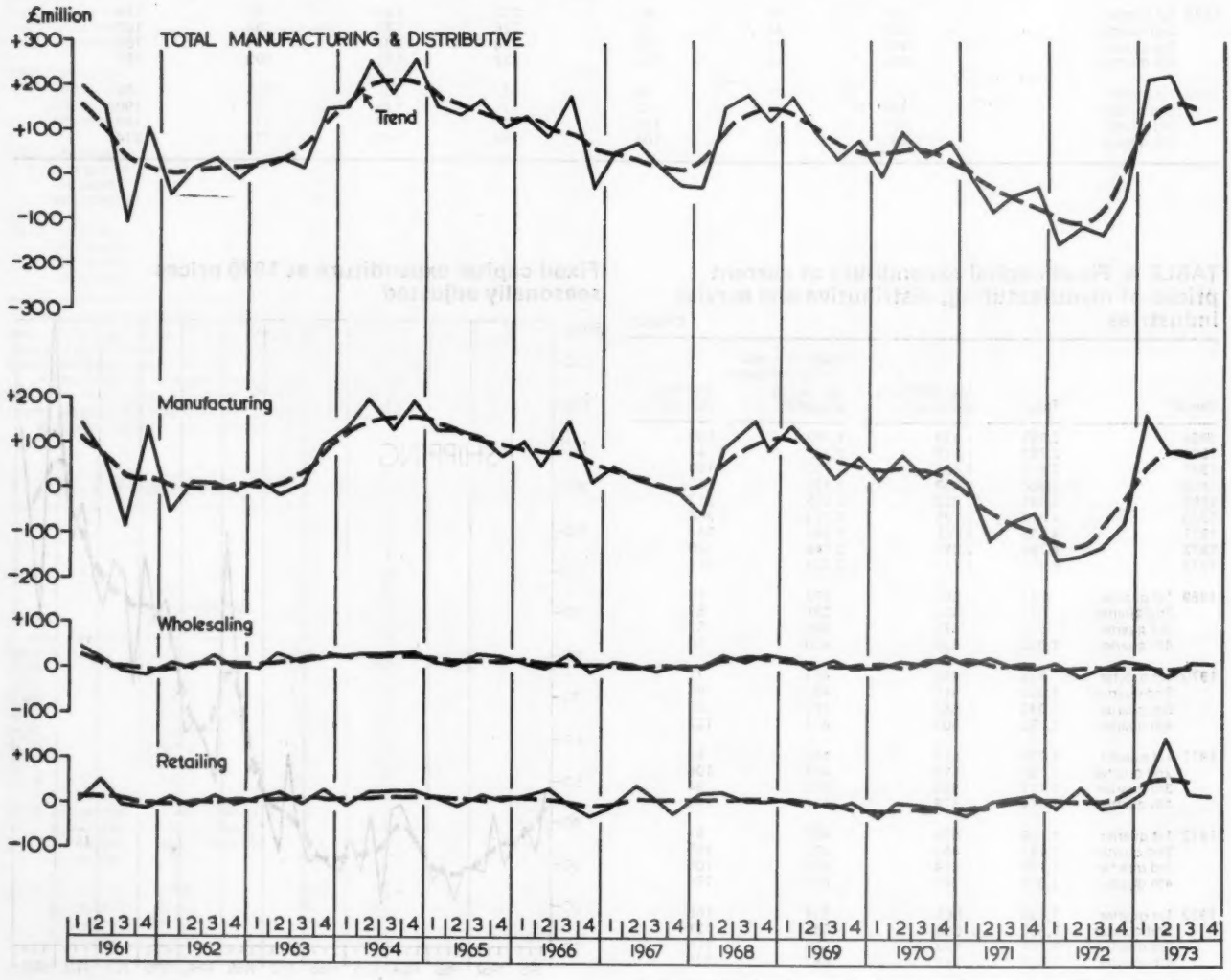
All industry groups except metal manufacturing showed an increase in their stocks in 1973. The engineering group has shown by far the largest absolute increase over the year, following very heavy destocking in both 1971 and 1972. In relation to stock levels however, the biggest increase was in the chemicals groups with a rise equivalent to 8 per cent of the opening 1973 level.

The stocks/output index for the end of 1973 has been revised to 89.5, still showing a significant increase on the third quarter's ratio.

Distributive industries

Revised figures indicate that wholesalers' stocks increased by £14 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1973. This rise was attributable to increases in stocks held by general wholesale distributors and dealers in industrial materials and machinery, partly offset by a fall in stocks held by dealers in coal, builders' materials, etc. Over the year, the increase in stocks was attributable to a very large rise for general wholesale distributors, partly offset by a large fall for stocks held by dealers in industrial materials and machinery and a modest reduction for stocks held by dealers in coal, builders' materials, etc. Retailers' stocks rose by £20 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1973, and by £227 million over the year.

Value of physical increase in industry's stocks at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted



Notes relating to Tables 1 to 4

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification (1968 edition)
Manufacturing Orders III to XIX
Distributive Trades Order XXIII:

Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses)
Retail MLH 820, 821

The estimates are shown to the nearest £ million but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3 because of the margin of error involved in quarterly seasonal adjustments. Differences between totals and the sum of constituent parts are due to rounding.

TABLE 1 Value of physical increase of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total	Manu-facturing	Wholesaling	Retailing		Total	Manu-facturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1973	13,312	9,693	1,749	1,869	Level of stocks at end 1973	13,312	9,693	1,749	1,869
1960	777	654	75	48	1970 1st quarter	−4	22	5	−31
1961	341	263	41	37	2nd quarter	96	76	18	2
1962	−3	−40	31	6	3rd quarter	39	26	16	−3
1963	192	103	35	54	4th quarter	74	51	29	−6
1964	834	653	118	63					
1965	556	460	67	29	1971 1st quarter	2	10	14	−22
1966	359	315	28	16	2nd quarter	−80	−113	26	7
1967	115	72	17	26	3rd quarter	−43	−67	9	15
1968	414	269	85	60	4th quarter	−23	−47	3	21
1969	375	320	42	13					
1970	205	175	68	−38	1972 1st quarter	−150	−156	15	−9
1971	−145	−218	52	21	2nd quarter	−117	−145	−12	40
1972	−448	−498	28	22	3rd quarter	−129	−125	4	−8
1973	694	433	34	227	4th quarter	−51	−72	22	−1
1969 1st quarter	174	140	22	12	1973 1st quarter	217	168	18	31
2nd quarter	90	83	1	6	2nd quarter	226	87	−16	154
3rd quarter	36	24	19	−7	3rd quarter	120	79	18	22
4th quarter	76	73	1	2	4th quarter r	132	98	14	20

TABLE 2 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Analysis by industry group							Analysis by type of asset		
	All manu-facturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manu-facture	Engineer-ing, ship-building, vehicles and metal goods	Textiles leather and clothing	Other manu-facturing industries	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
Level of stocks at end 1973	9,693	1,304	920	713	4,855	789	1,113	3,424	3,926	2,344
1960	654	66	46	110	311	37	82	309	134	211
1961	263	23	33	11	141	13	42	69	92	102
1962	− 40	38	1	−39	− 18	− 21	—	− 86	2	44
1963	103	12	−8	− 8	88	4	16	− 13	101	15
1964	653	20	56	46	406	76	50	232	319	103
1965	460	19	33	38	305	3	62	117	207	137
1966	315	1	36	−23	222	31	48	10	145	160
1967	72	34	7	−41	120	−38	−11	−16	140	−52
1968	269	10	72	37	67	34	49	102	108	59
1969	320	33	75	−5	73	76	69	108	25	187
1970	175	11	42	37	71	2	12	138	−63	100
1971	−218	10	15	8	−198	−61	8	−237	1	19
1972	−498	−11	−29	−46	−290	−104	−18	−178	−109	−211
1973	433	60	68	−12	240	29	49	245	234	−46
1969 1st quarter	140	11	23	5	61	24	17	41	41	58
2nd quarter	83	−2	16	4	34	12	20	54	−11	41
3rd quarter	24	31	2	−11	−44	24	22	−8	1	30
4th quarter	73	−6	34	−3	22	15	11	22	−6	57
1970 1st quarter	22	3	21	−7	−14	5	12	26	−43	39
2nd quarter	76	7	3	12	50	5	−1	67	23	−14
3rd quarter	26	−1	13	11	4	—	−1	27	−40	38
4th quarter	51	1	5	20	31	−8	3	18	−3	37
1971 1st quarter	10	1	−3	38	−22	−10	7	−40	6	44
2nd quarter	−113	−3	12	−25	−60	−39	1	−70	−35	−9
3rd quarter	−67	−14	3	−8	−40	−7	−1	−72	20	−15
4th quarter	−47	27	3	3	−76	−5	1	−56	10	−1
1972 1st quarter	−156	−11	9	−48	−49	−35	−23	−54	−20	−82
2nd quarter	−145	16	−32	4	−122	−19	8	−75	−13	−56
3rd quarter	−125	−18	6	−3	−69	−30	−10	−42	−38	−45
4th quarter	−72	1	−11	1	−50	−21	7	−7	−38	−28
1973 1st quarter	168	20	13	24	65	6	40	62	70	36
2nd quarter	87	−4	22	−8	66	19	−7	81	43	−37
3rd quarter	79	11	37	−9	39	−4	6	31	79	−31
4th quarter r	98	33	−4	−19	71	8	10	70	42	−14

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TABLE 3 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by wholesalers at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted £ million

	Total wholesalers	General wholesale distributors	Dealers in coal, builders materials, etc.	Dealers in industrial materials and machinery
Level of stocks at end 1973	1,749	1,135	154	460
1960	75	43	6	27
1961	41	27	1	14
1962	31	5	5	21
1963	35	14	7	14
1964	118	62	17	39
1965	67	30	7	31
1966	28	21	—	7
1967	17	9	—	8
1968	85	57	4	25
1969	42	19	−2	26
1970	68	15	—	53
1971	52	41	−3	14
1972	28	31	14	−17
1973	34	95	−9	−51
1969 1st quarter	22	14	−1	9
2nd quarter	1	−13	−1	14
3rd quarter	19	14	2	3
4th quarter	1	4	2	−1
1970 1st quarter	5	−3	1	6
2nd quarter	18	10	−3	11
3rd quarter	16	−4	−2	21
4th quarter	29	11	4	14
1971 1st quarter	14	3	1	11
2nd quarter	26	20	1	5
3rd quarter	9	12	—	−3
4th quarter	3	6	−4	2
1972 1st quarter	15	2	2	10
2nd quarter	−12	−4	3	−11
3rd quarter	4	23	3	−22
4th quarter	22	10	6	6
1973 1st quarter	18	42	−12	−12
2nd quarter	−16	−1	4	−19
3rd quarter	18	37	8	−26
4th quarter r	14	16	−8	6

TABLE 4 Increase in the book value of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks £ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1973	17,833	13,152	2,472	2,209
1960	647	543	60	44
1961	375	274	40	61
1962	85	24	30	31
1963	294	200	44	50
1964	891	670	136	85
1965	694	571	73	50
1966	586	480	51	55
1967	260	180	47	33
1968	849	581	138	130
1969	969	775	104	90
1970	1,140	898	162	80
1971	699	399	160	140
1972	550	242	189	119
1973	3,109	2,359	455	296
1969 1st quarter	296	222	16	58
2nd quarter	250	205	18	27
3rd quarter	179	126	65	−12
4th quarter	243	222	4	17
1970 1st quarter	283	254	16	13
2nd quarter	312	258	26	28
3rd quarter	226	139	78	9
4th quarter	321	248	43	30
1971 1st quarter	244	193	29	22
2nd quarter	277	162	60	55
3rd quarter	96	11	70	15
4th quarter	82	34	—	48
1972 1st quarter	−10	−34	−2	26
2nd quarter	98	20	18	60
3rd quarter	151	53	99	−1
4th quarter	313	204	75	34
1973 1st quarter	518	417	39	62
2nd quarter	608	504	53	51
3rd quarter	911	626	216	69
4th quarter r	1,071	811	146	114

Book Values exclude VAT. Purchase Tax payable on retailers' stock prior to the second quarter of 1973.

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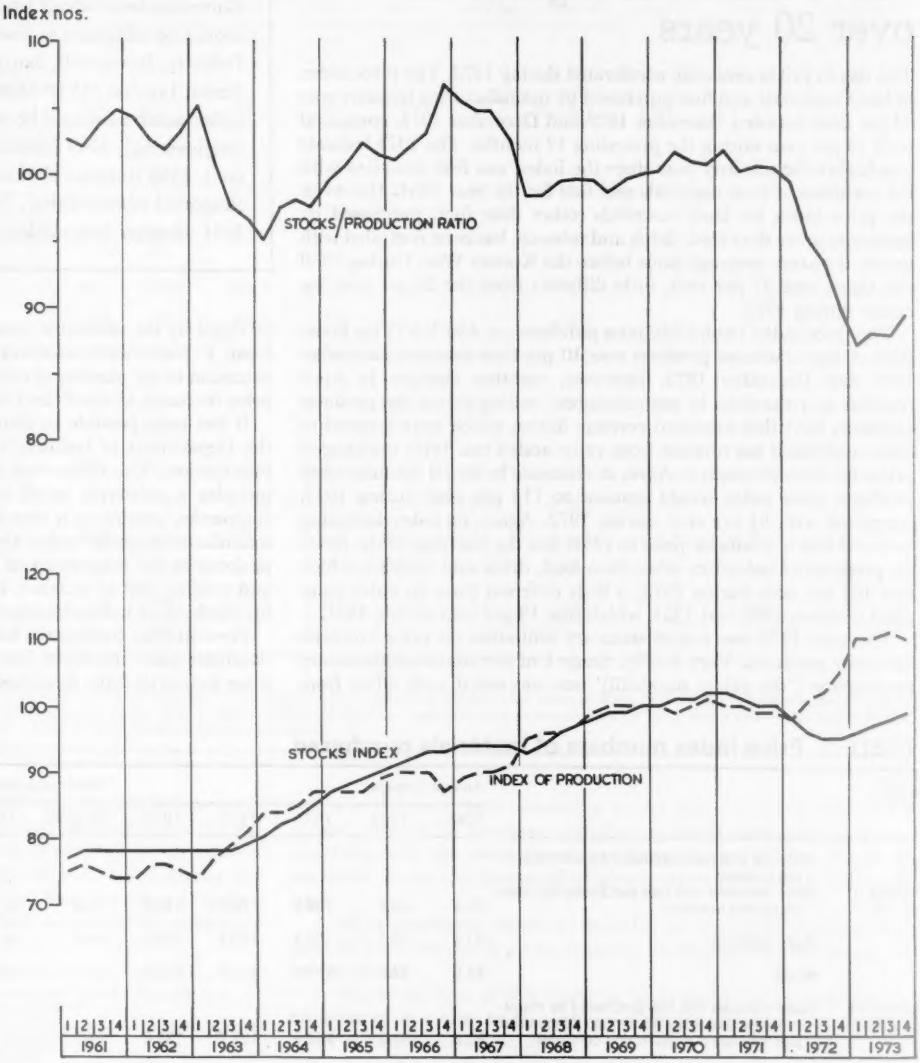
TABLE 5 The relationship of manufacturers' stocks to manufacturing production

Index numbers—4th quarter 1969 = 100
Seasonally adjusted

	Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of Stocks to Production
1962 Q 1	78	74	104.3
2	78	76	102.7
3	78	76	101.9
4	78	75	103.3
1963 Q 1	78	74	105.3
2	78	77	101.0
3	78	79	97.7
4	79	81	96.7
1964 Q 1	80	84	95.1
2	82	84	97.5
3	83	85	98.1
4	85	87	97.7
1965 Q 1	87	87	99.5
2	88	87	100.7
3	89	87	102.3
4	90	89	101.5
1966 Q 1	91	90	101.1
2	92	90	102.2
3	93	90	103.3
4	93	87	106.8
1967 Q 1	94	89	105.7
2	94	90	104.9
3	94	90	104.8
4	94	91	102.7
1968 Q 1	93	95	98.4
2	94	96	98.4
3	96	96	99.5
4	97	97	99.7
1969 Q 1	98	99	99.6
2	99	100	98.7
3	99	100	99.6
4	100	100	100.0
1970 Q 1	100	100	100.3
2	101	99	101.7
3	101	100	101.1
4	102	101	100.8
1971 Q 1	102	100	101.8
2	101	100	100.3
3	100	99	100.6
4	100	99	100.5
1972 Q 1	98	98	99.5
2	96	101	95.2
3	95	102	93.6
4	95	105	90.0
1973 Q 1	96	110	87.1
2	97	110	88.0
3	98	111	87.8
4 r	99	110	89.5



(1) The index numbers of the level of stocks relate to the end of each quarter; the index of production refers to production during the quarter.
(2) The 1970 index of production has been rebased on the fourth quarter of 1969 for the purpose of this table.
(3) The index numbers of the stocks production ratio are calculated from unrounded estimates of the data in the previous two columns.

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Wholesale price index numbers –1973 increases highest for over 20 years

The rise in prices generally accelerated during 1973. The price index of basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose 47 per cent between December 1972 and December 1973, compared with 13 per cent during the preceding 12 months. The 1973 increase was higher than in any year since the index was first compiled with the inclusion of food materials and fuel for the year 1954. However. the price index for basic materials (other than fuel) purchased by industries other than food, drink and tobacco, has been compiled with nearly the same coverage since before the Korean War. During 1950 this index rose 57 per cent, little different from the 54 per cent increase during 1973.

The price index (which excludes purchase tax and VAT) for home sales of manufactured products rose 10 per cent between December 1972 and December 1973. However, taxation changes in April resulted in reductions in manufacturers' selling prices for products (tobacco, etc.) that attracted revenue duties, which were lowered to offset additional tax revenue from value added tax. With unchanged prices for these products in April, the increase in the all manufactured products price index would amount to 11½ per cent during 1973, compared with 6½ per cent during 1972. Again, no index including food and fuel is available prior to 1954; but the coverage of the index for products of industries other than food, drink and tobacco, which rose 10½ per cent during 1973, is little different from an index compiled between 1949 and 1954, which rose 13 per cent during 1951.

The year 1973 was one of statutory limitation on price increases for many products. Very briefly, Stage I of the counter-inflationary programme ('the prices standstill)' was succeeded with effect from 29 April by the allowable cost regime of Stage II. Under Stage III, from 1 November, modifications were introduced including an extension to the number of companies required to pre-notify intended price increases to the Price Commission.

It has been possible to distinguish the statistical returns made to the Department of Industry by pre-notifying companies from other information. The distinction is not clear cut as 'other information' includes a relatively small amount that may cover pre-notifying companies, coming as it does from Trade Associations, purchasers of manufactured goods rather than sellers, or trade publications. Comparisons of the proportion of individual price quotations increased, and median size of increase, during Stage II, are given in the table for products of industries other than food, drink and tobacco.

Pre-notifying companies, having been determined largely by size, dominate some industries but are scarcely represented in others. As some industries have faced heavier cost pressures, the uneven spread

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division, Department of Industry, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-222 7877, ext. 3549 (engineering), 3509 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 5844 (imported commodities), 5994 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3411 all other information.

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		Annual Averages					Percentage changes				
		1968	1969	1971	1972	1973	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry										
Orders III to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	91.5	95.0	104.6	109.2	144.3	+3.8	+ 5.3	+ 4.6	+ 4.4	+32.1
	Basic materials	91.3	95.1	104.1	108.6	146.6	+4.2	+ 5.2	+ 4.1	+ 4.3	+35.0
	ø Fuel	93.5	94.6	107.9	111.9	113.5	+1.2	+ 5.7	+ 7.9	+ 3.7	+ 1.4
Orders IV to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing countries	92.2	96.0	103.6	107.7	139.6	+4.1	+ 4.2	+ 3.6	+ 4.0	+29.6
	Basic materials other than fuel	92.0	96.2	103.0	107.1	143.6	+4.6	+ 4.0	+ 3.0	+ 4.0	+34.1
	Materials and fuels purchased by Selected Broad Sectors of Industry										
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	89.6	92.6	107.1	112.9	148.3	+3.4	+ 8.0	+ 7.1	+ 5.4	+31.4
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	90.2	93.1	107.7	113.2	143.2	+3.2	+ 7.4	+ 7.7	+ 5.1	+26.5
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	91.2	93.5	108.8	112.2	133.2	+2.5	+ 7.0	+ 8.8	+ 3.1	+18.7
311 to 312	Steel industries	90.1	91.7	110.3	114.4	124.8	+1.8	+ 9.1	+10.3	+3.7	+ 9.1
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	85.7	90.3	107.9	113.0	126.0	+5.4	+10.7	+ 7.9	+ 4.7	+11.5
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	86.3	93.9	100.5	104.6	125.8	+8.8	+ 6.5	+ 0.5	+ 4.1	+20.3
361	Electrical machinery industry	85.5	91.0	104.6	108.9	124.5	+6.4	+ 9.9	+ 4.6	+ 4.1	+14.3
Order XIII	Textile industries	97.2	98.6	104.8	119.0	164.7	+1.4	+ 1.4	+ 4.8	+13.6	+38.4
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	92.2	96.3	105.7	116.8	138.3	+4.4	+ 3.8	+ 5.7	+10.5	+18.5
Order XVII	Timber industries	89.6	94.5	105.9	114.2	162.7	+5.5	+ 5.8	+ 5.9	+ 7.8	+42.5
481 to 484	Paper industries	87.0	91.3	106.2	108.9	124.2	+4.9	+ 9.5	+ 6.2	+ 2.5	+14.0
Order XX	Construction materials	88.7	92.1	109.1	116.4	136.1	+3.8	+ 8.6	+ 9.1	+ 6.7	+16.9
Part of Order XX	House building materials	88.9	92.3	110.1	118.4	141.0	+3.8	+ 8.3	+10.1	+ 7.5	+19.1

ø Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity. Crude oil and coal for carbonising are included in basic materials.

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		Annual averages					Percentage changes				
		1968	1969	1971	1972	1973	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Orders III to XIX	Output of Manufactured Products†	89.9	93.4	109.0	114.8	123.2	+3.9	+ 7.1	+ 9.0	+ 5.3	+ 7.3
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industries other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	89.8	92.6	110.2	116.8	126.1	+3.1	+ 8.0	+10.2	+ 6.0	+ 8.0
	Output of Selected Broad Sectors of Industry										
211 to 229	Products of the food manufacturing industries	89.8	93.0	109.2	114.1	132.6	+3.6	+ 7.5	+ 9.2	+ 4.5	+16.2
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Products of the food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	89.8	93.1	109.1	115.0	128.5	+3.7	+ 7.4	+ 9.1	+ 5.4	+11.7
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries†	94.7	95.5	108.2	113.7	118.9	+0.8	+ 4.7	+ 8.2	+ 5.1	+ 4.6
311 and 312	Steel industries	82.5	86.4	109.1	115.0	125.9	+4.7	+15.7	+ 9.1	+ 5.4	+ 9.5
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	87.9	91.3	110.3	116.2	124.5	+3.9	+ 9.5	+10.3	+ 5.3	+ 7.1
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	87.3	90.7	110.6	117.9	126.0	+3.9	+10.3	+10.6	+ 6.6	+ 6.9
Order IX	Electrical engineering	88.6	91.9	108.1	113.3	119.5	+3.7	+ 8.8	+ 8.1	+ 4.8	+ 5.5
Order XIII	Textile industries	94.1	96.9	104.9	112.2	131.7	+3.0	+ 3.2	+ 4.9	+ 7.0	+17.4
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	93.8	96.2	106.5	113.4	122.0	+2.6	+ 4.0	+ 6.5	+ 6.5	+ 7.6
Order XVII	Timber industries	90.0	93.2	111.1	120.6	141.1	+3.6	+ 7.3	+11.1	+ 8.6	+17.0
481 to 484	Paper industries	86.5	90.4	107.5	113.5	123.5	+4.5	+10.6	+ 7.5	+ 5.6	+ 8.8
Order XX	New construction‡	88	93	108	122	..	+5.7	+ 7.5	+ 8.0	+13.0	..

‡ Source: Department of the Environment.
† Reductions in the VAT-exclusive price of alcoholic liquor, tobacco and cigarettes, matches and mechanical lighters took place in April 1973. These reductions resulted from lower revenue duties designed to offset additional tax revenue from VAT. With unchanged prices in April for these products, index numbers for 1973 would have been higher by the following: All Manufactured Products: 1.3 points Chemicals and Allied industries: 0.2 points.

of pre-notifying companies makes for non-comparability between the size and frequency of their price changes and those of others. In the table, the bracketed figures are the result of an attempt to improve the comparison by grossing up, separately for each S.I.C. Order, the observed price changes of different size (so that the share of quotations from each Order is the same for both pre-notifying companies and other information):

	Total number of price quotations	Quotations higher in October than in April 1973	
		As percentage of total number of price quotations	Median size of increases (per cent)
Returns from pre-notifying companies	1,863	61.0 (63.3)	8.1 (7.5)
Other information	8,867	66.3 (66.1)	8.4 (8.3)

The difference between pre-notifiers and others, are in the direction that might have been expected. It is, however, hard to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of pre-notification, because of the interdependence of firms in respect of competition among them and in that the products of some firms are the materials of others. There was no evidence of any widespread tendency, among companies not required to pre-notify, to increase prices at rates that substantially exceeded those from whom pre-notification was required.

The annual reference tables on the index numbers of wholesale prices are appended.

Notes on index numbers of wholesale prices – 1970 = 100

1 The index numbers are calculated from the price movements of about 11,000 closely defined materials and products representative of goods purchased and manufactured by United Kingdom manufacturing industry.

2 Prices collected are those quoted for current orders. For some goods the usual time lag between placing of order and delivery may be lengthy.

3 Prices obtained for UK-produced goods may be on an ex-works or delivered basis according to the practice in the trade concerned. Where a producer supplies ex-works and also delivers, generally only the more important basis is reported on. Prices of imported goods are measured as closely as practical to a delivered basis.

4 Most producers report at monthly or quarterly intervals but date of price change is given enabling an average for the month to be calculated.

5 Where an item priced ceases to be available or is modified, an adjustment is made to the last price of the discontinued item in order to maintain comparability.

6 Prices for these closely defined items are combined into index numbers of commodities produced in the UK or commodities wholly or mainly imported.

7 For calculation purposes the formula is

$$100\ \frac{\Sigma(q_b p_r)\ p_i/p_r}{\Sigma q_b p_r}$$

where p and q are price and quantity respectively and b, r, and i denote respectively the base year, the reference year and any period. This resolves to a more familiar form of the Laspeyres formula, namely

$$100\ \frac{\Sigma q_b p_i}{\Sigma q_b p_r}$$

Thus the index numbers express the cost of a 1968 'basket of goods' as a percentage of what the same basket cost in 1970.

8 In building up commodity price index numbers into those for wider groups including the index numbers of materials purchased or output of broad sectors of industry, net weights are used, ie transactions between undertakings within the same sector are excluded. For example steel is included in the index for all manufactured products only to the extent that it is sold outside manufacturing such as to the construction industries; steel sold within the manufacturing sector is excluded. However, sales of capital goods are all treated as sales outside manufacturing industry, in accordance with national income accounting practice, which treats capital formation as a separate sector.

(text continued on page 58)

TABLE (3a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

1968 Standard Industrial Classification References		Annual averages				
		1968	1969	1971	1972	1973
Production of Mining and Quarrying:						
101	Coal	87.0	87.9	117.8	128.1	133.7
	Domestic coal	87.9	90.1	107.0	118.4	120.6
102/1	Granite and other chippings, aggregates and roadstones	97.7	97.6	103.9	109.4	115.9
	Coated limestone roadstone	91.5	95.4	111.1	119.9	128.2
102/2	Slates	95.8	96.8	120.5	128.9	137.6
103/3	Sand and Gravel—ex-pit or works	92.9	94.5	113.9	119.0	122.5
109/3	Salt	97.4	97.4	113.1	121.8	123.1
Food, Drink and Tobacco:						
211/1	Flour	98.6	99.3	105.5	112.5	131.5
216	Sugar, refined	97.8	101.4	113.3	119.1	127.8
217	Chocolate and sugar confectionery	85.4	91.5	107.7	115.4	120.2
231	Beer†	88.9	95.5	104.7	109.3	98.0
240	Tobacco†	91.8	99.7	101.0	101.5	94.5
Coal and Petroleum Products:						
262	Motor spirit, two star (including duty)	89.4	98.5	105.0	106.6	111.5
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs—including duty)ø	101.3	98.4	124.3	128.0	135.1
	Derv fuel (including duty)	91.0	99.3	104.7	106.2	109.8
263	Lubricating oils and greases	97.6	96.5	113.6	118.8	133.1
Chemicals and Allied Industries:						
271	General chemicals	95.3	96.4	107.0	109.8	114.4
	Acetic acid, B.S.S. 576—1950	98.1	98.1	102.6	106.3	109.3
	Acetone, B.S. 509—1964	97.1	98.3	98.6	98.6	98.6
	Aluminium sulphate (14 per cent Al_2O_3)	97.9	97.9	109.0	115.4	126.2
	Barium carbonate, precipitated 98/99 per cent in powderform	86.4	92.5	114.6	128.5	132.2
	Benzole, pure, B.S.S. 135/2—1963	90.1	94.7	93.3	87.1	100.7
	Butanol, B.S.S. 508—1966	102.0	99.0	98.7	98.7	98.7
	Ethyl alcohol, industrial, B.S. 507—1966 (P.B.S.)	96.7	96.8	106.4	112.9	115.8
	Hydrogen peroxide, 130vol.	95.2	95.2	107.8	112.4	115.1
	Liquid chlorine	90.9	93.9	110.5	115.4	118.1
	Methanol	95.6	95.6	105.3	105.3	105.3
	Nitric acid, concentrated 100 per cent	93.0	92.4	113.2	123.8	127.8
	Phenols and salts	95.6	95.6	100.5	100.6	101.9
	Phosphorus and compounds	96.4	96.4	126.3	133.7	141.2
	Salicylic acid, technical or commercial grade	97.8	100.0	115.0	115.0	115.0
	Soda, ash, light, ex-works	88.0	90.7	110.8	119.0	128.0
	Sodium cyanide, 98/99 per cent	91.4	93.4	107.9	113.3	115.1
	Sodium sulphide, solid, 60/62 per cent	96.2	97.2	115.5	123.7	124.6
	Titanium dioxide	94.2	94.2	107.3	111.9	118.5
	Trichlorethylene, metal degreasing	88.8	91.6	117.4	121.8	123.2
	Tri-tolyl phosphate	93.8	94.0	104.1	107.3	111.8
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals	86.6	87.5	110.4	107.7	112.6
	Pharmaceutical preparations	99.7	98.3	103.6	109.1	112.3
273	Toilet preparations	92.2	93.9	108.3	118.6	124.3
274	Paint	93.1	94.0	112.4	120.6	127.5
275	Glycerine	119.0	102.5	106.2	111.9	116.0
	Soap	88.3	92.1	108.9	116.9	128.7
	Soapless detergents	92.5	95.2	105.4	109.4	113.3
276	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	96.5	97.1	102.6	103.8	105.6
	Cellulose, acetate sheet, commercial clear, transparent	90.7	92.1	108.6	110.3	118.9
	Laminated materials	90.2	91.7	106.2	110.4	125.8
	Phenolic and cresylic plastics: moulding powders	91.1	92.7	104.8	104.8	106.6
	Polystyrene and styrene copolymer moulding powders	100.0	101.2	102.0	102.5	107.0
277	Dyes and dyestuffs	86.2	91.8	116.4	118.3	119.8
	Pigments and earth colours, inorganic	84.9	92.2	98.8	107.3	120.0
279/1	Principal Products of Polishes industry	89.8	92.5	109.2	115.0	119.7
279/3	Explosives, Fireworks etc. (including sporting ammunition, permitted explosives and electric detonators)	86.3	89.7	112.4	124.1	132.1
279/4	Formulated pesticides	98.3	98.2	102.4	108.7	114.0
279/7	Photographic paper and film, and photochemical materials	94.4	95.5	106.1	111.5	114.2
Iron and Steel and Other Metals:						
311/2	Steel sheets—other than stainless and electrical sheets	83.1	86.4	109.0	115.1	128.3
	Tinplate	85.3	88.5	110.9	117.1	128.6
	Finished steel	82.3	86.2	109.2	114.2	125.5
	Heavy bars and sections	81.5	86.0	111.1	117.6	129.2
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	84.1	86.6	111.1	116.8	130.5
312	Steel tubes (other than Electric Conduit Tubes)	82.2	85.0	111.0	119.5	127.8
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	88.7	91.5	112.0	121.0	130.7
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	85.8	88.9	109.0	118.0	126.7
321	Aluminium: Rolled	89.6	94.6	104.4	107.7	116.4
	Aluminium: Extruded and drawn	88.3	94.3	105.3	109.1	118.2
	Aluminium: Castings	81.4	91.3	104.9	110.3	121.5
	Aluminium: Forgings	88.3	91.4	106.1	107.8	113.2
322	Brass ingots, 65/35 B.S.S. 1400-B 3, delivered	78.3	95.9	78.4	77.0	117.1
Mechanical Engineering:						
331	Agricultural machinery	88.2	91.6	109.4	119.2	131.0
333	Pumps, valves compressors etc	86.2	89.8	110.1	116.8	125.7
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	89.2	92.6	110.3	120.0	128.3
337/2	Cranes	90.9	93.2	106.4	114.5	123.0
339/6	Portable power tools	89.4	91.9	107.3	113.3	119.5
Surgical Instruments and Appliances, etc.						
353/1	Dental goods	89.4	93.1	105.3	110.5	115.1
	Artificial teeth	89.9	93.7	104.9	118.1	120.8
	Dental equipment	89.8	94.3	111.5	117.8	119.5
	Dental instruments	83.1	88.8	106.9	111.8	113.2

TABLE (3a) *continued*

1968 Standard Industrial Classification References		Annual averages				
		1968	1969	1971	1972	1973
Electrical Goods:						
365/1	Gramophone records and pre-recorded tapes	98.8	98.7	106.9	115.7	125.2
368	Domestic electrical appliances	94.8	95.0	107.6	113.2	115.3
	Electric cookers	97.8	98.8	106.7	118.7	124.7
	Electric Fires	93.1	94.9	110.0	115.4	116.7
	Electric vacuum Cleaners and polishers	93.7	92.7	111.1	114.7	116.9
	Electric refrigerators	96.7	96.5	104.9	107.4	105.9
Other Metal Goods:						
391	Hand tools and implements	86.3	90.3	109.4	118.0	128.7
392	Cutlery and tableware	88.7	92.1	108.1	117.0	124.6
	Knives, scissors, etc.	88.5	92.2	109.7	117.9	128.6
	Razor blades	89.4	92.3	105.8	115.0	117.9
	Spoons and forks	84.8	90.1	109.4	118.2	127.3
399/6	Domestic hollow-ware	86.2	90.6	113.1	121.6	129.2
399/7	Industrial hollow-ware	84.7	88.8	110.2	117.3	126.3
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	93.6	94.8	108.3	111.2	112.0
Textiles:						
411	Man-made fibres	97.9	98.5	103.1	103.6	105.7
412, 414/5 and 415	All man-made fibres yarns	93.7	95.9	106.0	112.8	125.6
412/1	Cotton and cotton mixture yarns	90.9	94.4	107.2	115.2	143.9
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	85.0	91.7	108.0	117.4	138.8
	Loomstate man-made fibres fabrics	93.7	96.0	106.8	114.8	132.1
413/6	Woven linen in the loomstate	89.4	91.9	106.3	114.9	139.0
	Light linen	91.5	91.8	104.6	113.1	138.0
414/1	Wool tops	105.2	106.8	92.8	144.7	275.3
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	95.1	99.6	101.1	127.9	188.3
416	Rope, twine and net	91.5	94.5	107.1	111.2	125.5
	Cordage, cables, ropes and twines	91.1	94.1	107.3	111.4	129.8
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	98.0	99.4	102.0	104.9	116.2
419	Carpets and rugs	93.6	96.6	104.9	111.7	130.1
	Carpets	93.7	96.7	104.7	111.6	130.0
421	Narrow fabrics	90.4	94.1	110.3	118.1	131.6
422/2	Canvas sacks and bags	94.8	99.8	112.5	137.6	144.1
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	93.9	96.5	108.2	109.5	111.5
Leather and Leather Goods:						
431/1	Leather for footwear	91.2	101.5	100.9	138.5	161.2
432	Travel goods	92.4	95.6	108.4	116.5	130.6
Clothing and Footwear:						
441-449	Made-up clothing	94.2	96.4	106.4	112.2	119.4
441	Weatherproof outerwear	95.9	97.0	105.3	108.9	116.6
442	Men's and boys' tailored outerwear	93.5	95.0	111.2	117.4	123.7
443	Women's and young girls' tailored outerwear	93.3	95.3	105.0	109.7	116.7
445/1	Light outerwear	95.8	98.0	103.2	109.1	115.4
450	Footwear	93.0	95.7	106.8	116.5	129.6
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, Cement, etc:						
461/1	Refractory goods, including bricks	91.3	94.9	114.7	119.4	124.6
461/2	Non-refractory goods, including bricks	90.9	92.9	112.9	124.2	135.5
	Engineering bricks—*delivered*	90.7	93.9	116.8	138.3	156.1
	Common building bricks (Fletton) *delivered*	82.2	85.8	111.1	120.6	129.2
	Common Building bricks (Non-Fletton) *ex-works*	90.2	92.2	114.8	131.5	144.7
463/1	Glass products—other than Flat glass and containers	93.0	94.7	111.3	117.1	123.4
	Flat glass—including safety and silvered glass	89.5	91.6	111.0	117.9	122.7
463/2	Glass containers	90.4	92.4	115.6	118.6	122.3
464	Cement, delivered	85.0	86.3	120.3	127.4	127.4
469/1	Abrasive papers and cloths	91.7	94.6	109.3	120.1	135.1
469/2	Precast concrete products	92.3	93.0	111.6	118.7	128.3
Timber, Furniture etc.:						
471/1	Hardwood - home grown	89.5	93.5	108.5	117.5	165.0
471/2	Building joinery	88.8	91.8	114.5	127.4	158.6
472	Domestic furniture	91.2	94.0	109.4	118.4	130.0
473	Bedding, etc.	89.4	93.2	112.3	120.7	131.9
Paper and Paper Products:						
481	Paper and board	87.6	91.1	106.4	110.6	120.3
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	82.7	89.3	107.5	113.4	123.0
482/2	Packaging products of paper and associated materials	90.3	91.4	106.4	116.4	131.2
	Paper sacks	92.7	92.3	104.2	112.5	126.3
	Paper bags	87.1	90.3	108.3	120.0	137.8
483	Manufactured stationery	85.6	90.3	110.7	118.2	127.9
484/1	Wallpaper	90.3	87.4	109.8	116.9	127.3
Other Manufactured Products:						
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	88.9	92.2	111.6	115.7	119.9
491/2	Rubber goods—other than tyres and tubes	85.5	90.7	111.8	117.2	126.2
492	Linoleum and felt base	91.6	93.9	109.6	112.5	115.9
493	Brushes and brooms	89.4	91.7	106.3	116.4	123.8
494/1	Toys and games	90.8	94.2	111.5	123.3	133.7
	Metal toys	90.7	95.6	113.3	126.6	140.2
	Dolls and soft toys	88.0	93.6	114.1	124.6	129.9
	Pedal cars, scooters, toy perambulators and children's tricycles and bicycles	90.2	92.2	121.4	134.1	148.4
494/2	Perambulators, folders and pushchairs	90.8	95.9	110.7	116.1	125.6
494/3	Sports equipment	94.5	96.5	104.2	110.3	117.2
495/1	Pens and pencils	94.7	97.2	107.2	112.5	119.8
	Pencils—Non-mechanical	90.5	94.1	114.9	119.3	132.5
495/2	Stationers' goods—other than pens and pencils	91.3	94.7	108.8	114.6	118.6
496/2	Plastics products—other than components, accessories and semi-manufactured goods	93.6	95.5	105.8	109.1	114.6

† Reductions in the VAT-exclusive price of beer and tobacco took place in April 1973. This reduction resulted from lower revenue duties designed to offset additional tax revenue from VAT.

ø Index based on sheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 galls exclusive of rebates.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	Annual averages				
	1968	1969	1971	1972	1973
Hides and skins	95.6	115.3	105.1	186.2	214.8
Imported	91.2	109.8	108.0	168.8	202.3
Native	102.3	123.9	100.7	212.7	234.0
Non-ferrous metals					
Aluminium virgin ingot, delivered	90.0	95.8	100.5	91.9	95.6
Copper‡	87.7	103.6	75.3	72.5	123.3
Lead‡	79.1	95.3	82.0	95.2	138.2
Nickel refined, delivered§	74.2	83.1	101.5	103.1	114.8
Tin ingot, min. 99.75%‡	85.1	93.3	93.9	98.4	128.6
Zinc§	87.9	93.5	109.2	122.0	168.6
Zinc‡	88.9	96.8	102.9	122.5	282.0
Palm oil, crude, ex-refinery in bulk	72.0	74.2	107.7	88.2	159.4
Phosphate rock	95.1	95.0	99.8	105.5	126.6
Natural rubber	94.6	121.9	82.0	84.1	165.7
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	173.9	149.1	93.1	86.5	98.4

	Annual averages				
	1968	1969	1971	1972	1973
Textiles					
Cotton, raw	104.4	96.4	112.9	116.6	204.2
American type	106.6	96.3	115.5	120.1	210.2
Egyptian type	93.7	96.5	100.2	99.1	174.4
Jute, raw, c & f Dundee B.W.B. grades	95.7	102.7	102.8	106.6	103.4
B.W.C. grades	94.9	103.9	102.8	106.6	104.3
Silk, raw, delivered mill	83.8	83.3	92.8	105.9	193.6
Sisal, East Africa	114.3	113.5	113.7	143.4	312.0
Wool, raw	114.7	111.9	93.0	151.8	316.8
Merino, cif United Kingdom	124.4	116.1	90.4	149.7	355.6
Fine, crossbred, cif United Kingdom	121.8	113.4	94.5	159.0	349.4
Medium and coarse crossbred, cif	104.1	106.7	103.4	173.7	303.5
Timber					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	90.8	96.1	106.6	122.7	197.6
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	87.5	94.9	103.3	116.7	170.5
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	90.6	95.5	104.2	111.6	195.8
Woodpulp, imported,	82.0	88.5	104.6	103.2	124.0

‡ L.M.E. settlement price.
§ Producers' price.

TABLE 4 Annual average wholesale prices for selected commodities imported into the United Kingdom

	Unit of sale	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Non-ferrous metals:						
Aluminium virgin ingot, delivered consumer's works	£ per tonne	245.02	256.09	257.20	235.24	244.72
Copper‡	£ per tonne	611.44	590.28	444.87	428.03	727.50
Lead, excluding duty, or premium‡	£ per tonne	120.76	126.78	104.05	120.72	175.29
Nickel, refined, 4 tonnes and over, delivered consumer's works	£ per tonne	994.01	1,215.27	1,233.65	1,252.87	1,395.16
Tin, ingot, min. 99.75 per cent‡	£ per tonne	1,428.91	1,531.57	1,438.25	1,507.67	1,968.89
Zinc, excluding duty or premium‡	£ per tonne	119.24	123.22	126.92	151.00	347.53
Rubber, raw, No. 1 R.S.S. nearest shipment, closing buyers' price	P. per kg	22.28	18.13	14.39	14.68	30.25
Jute, raw, c & f Dundee:						
B.W.B. grades	£ per tonne	151.93	149.43	152.34	157.95	153.06
B.W.C. grades	£ per tonne	144.37	138.88	142.83 r	148.19	144.89
Ceylon coir fibre, mattress. Fair ordinary brown, cif basis ports	£ per tonne	43.32	44.78	51.17	59.58	68.83
Woodpulp, cif East Coast, 3 months' payment basis:						
Chemical sulphite, bleached	£ per tonne	63.11	71.42	76.08	74.47	88.51
Chemical sulphite, strong	£ per tonne	54.38	63.69	68.72	67.27	79.11
Chemical sulphate, unbleached Kraft	£ per tonne	49.70	58.96	62.99	61.66	74.11
Mechanical, unbleached	£ per tonne	35.43	38.41	39.27	37.61	48.78

‡ L.M.E. settlement price.

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Chart 1
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

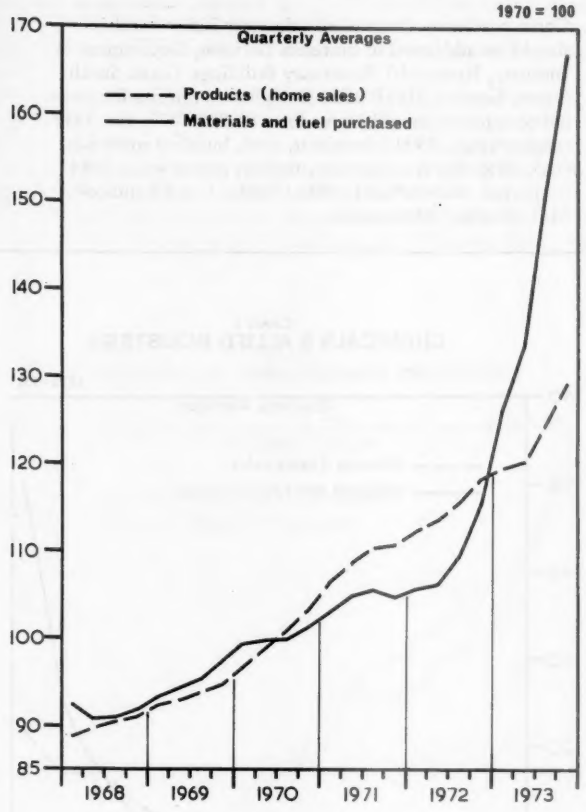


Chart 2
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY (OTHER THAN FOOD DRINK AND TOBACCO)

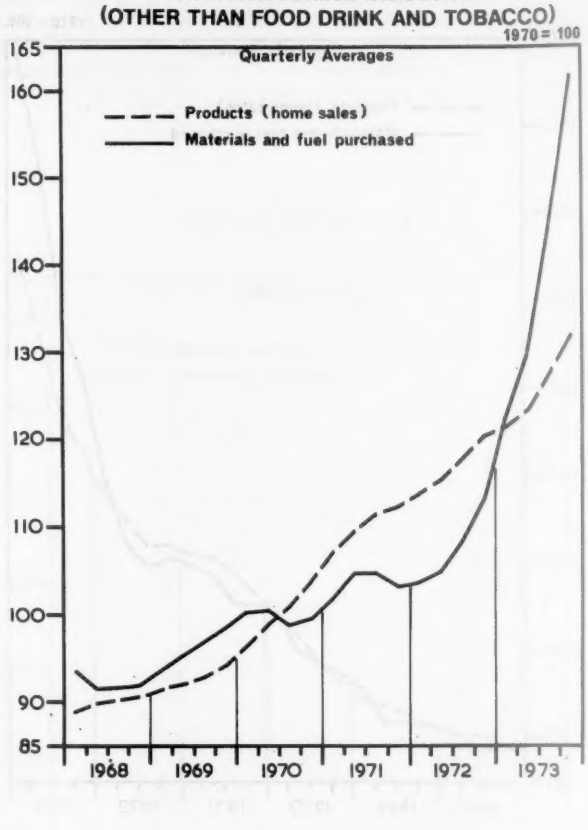
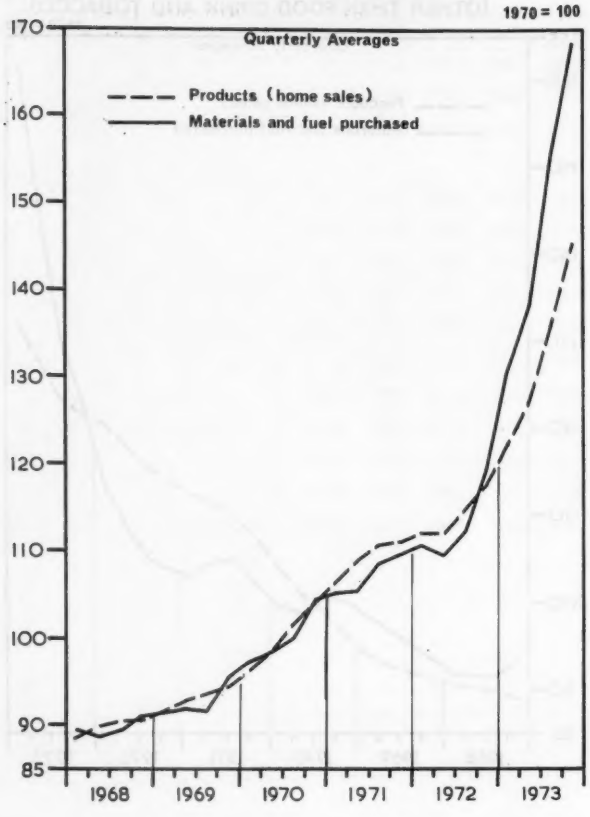


TABLE A Analysis of changes in price quotations for individual items, December 1972-December 1973

SIC Order	Total quotations	Quotations unchanged		Quotations increased		Increased						Quotations decreased	
		No.	%	No.	%	Under 2%	2%-4%	4%-6%	6%-8%	8%-10%	Over 10%	No.	%
Coal and Petroleum Products, Chemical and Allied Industries (IV and V)	1,221	511	41.8	655	53.6	32	72	103	56	78	314	55	4.5
Metal Manufactures (VI)	637	22	3.5	611	95.9	10	6	67	60	110	358	4	0.6
Engineering and Electrical Goods (VII, VIII and IX)	3,241	958	29.6	2,218	68.4	56	147	401	437	300	877	65	2.0
Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering and Vehicles (X and XI)	329	25	7.6	301	91.5	4	19	64	80	47	87	3	0.9
Metal Goods not elsewhere specified (XII)	1,101	165	15.0	927	84.2	9	38	200	134	105	441	9	0.8
Textile Industries other than Clothing (XIII)	1,050	145	13.8	874	83.2	21	37	67	72	62	615	31	3.0
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur (XIV)	56	6	10.7	48	85.7	—	1	4	—	3	40	2	3.6
Clothing and Footwear (XV)	522	135	25.9	375	71.8	15	37	42	33	45	203	12	2.3
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, Cement, etc. (XVI)	654	200	30.6	433	66.2	15	79	102	89	40	108	21	3.2
Timber, Furniture, etc. (XVII)	423	24	5.7	397	93.8	1	2	17	16	39	322	2	0.5
Paper, Printing and Publishing (XVIII)	725	187	25.8	535	73.9	6	18	60	60	89	302	3	0.4
Other Manufacturing Industries (XIX)	723	128	17.7	580	80.2	7	38	77	100	59	299	15	0.2
1972/73 Total	10,682	2,506	23.5	7,954	74.5	176	494	1,204	1,137	977	3,966	222	2.1
1971/72	11,208	2,428	21.7	8,289	74.0	269	736	2,159	1,084	908	3,133	491	4.3
1970/71	10,349	2,378	23.0	7,258	70.1	399	669	1,270	1,197	996	2,727	713	6.9
1969/70	10,166	1,855	18.2	7,957	78.3	473	537	1,071	1,052	907	3,917	354	3.5
1968/69	9,280	3,015	32.5	5,772	62.2	536	735	1,276	986	640	1,599	493	5.3

Chart 3
FOOD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY



Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division, Department of Industry, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-222 7877, ext. 3549 (engineering), 3509 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 5844 (imported commodities), 5994 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3411 all other information.

Chart 5
CHEMICALS & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

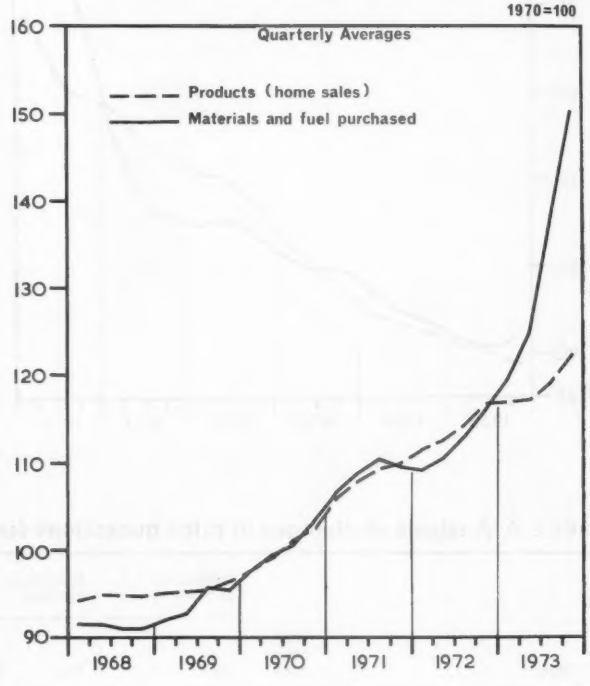


Chart 4
FOOD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES (EXCLUDING ANIMAL & POULTRY FOODS)

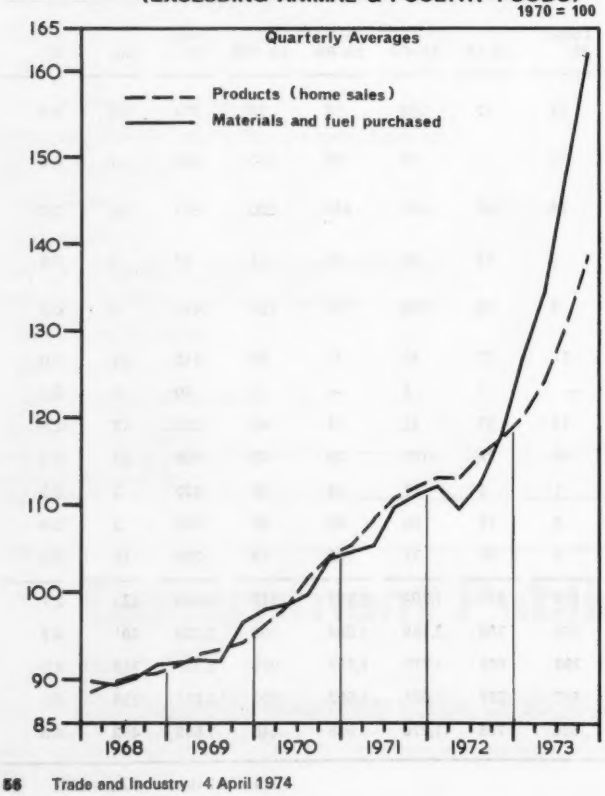
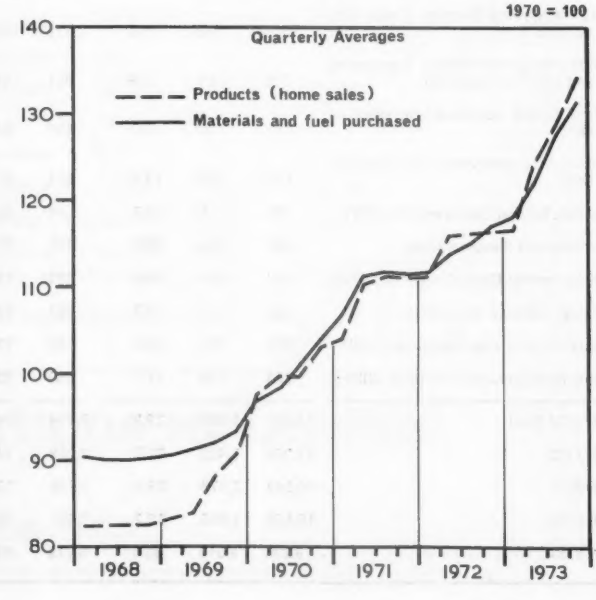


Chart 6
STEEL INDUSTRIES



9 The weights have been derived from the Census of Production, supplemented by short-term statistics of production, the Trade Accounts, information supplied by trade associations and various other sources. The value of goods for which no price series are available is imputed to prices series which may be expected to move similarly.

10 Product descriptions in the index numbers generally correspond to principal products (or groups of principal products) of an industry as defined in the Census of Production. The weights for a principal product includes the value of sales of that product by establishments classified to other Census industries.

11 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by broad sectors of industry.

12 To facilitate further calculation the index numbers are given

Chart 7
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

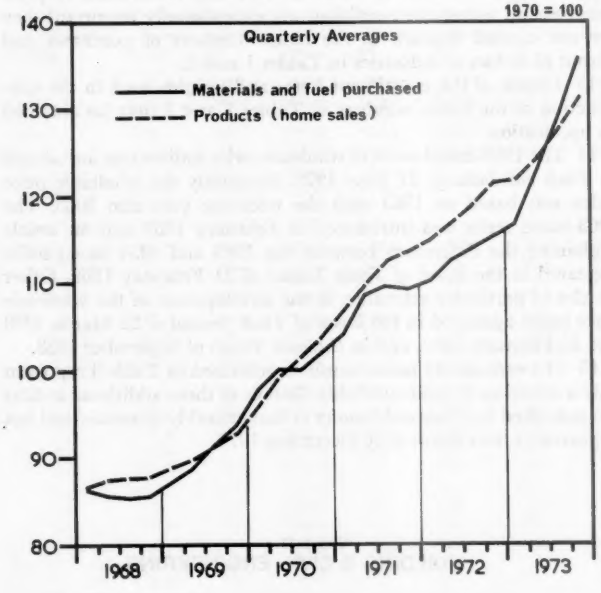


Chart 8
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

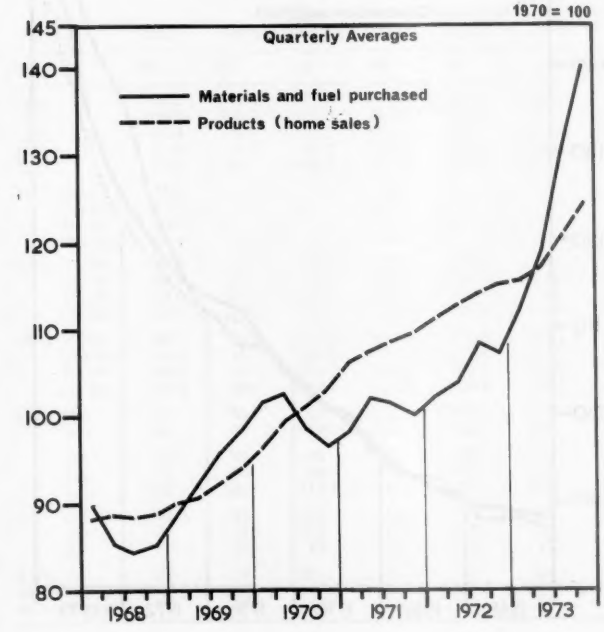


Chart 9
TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

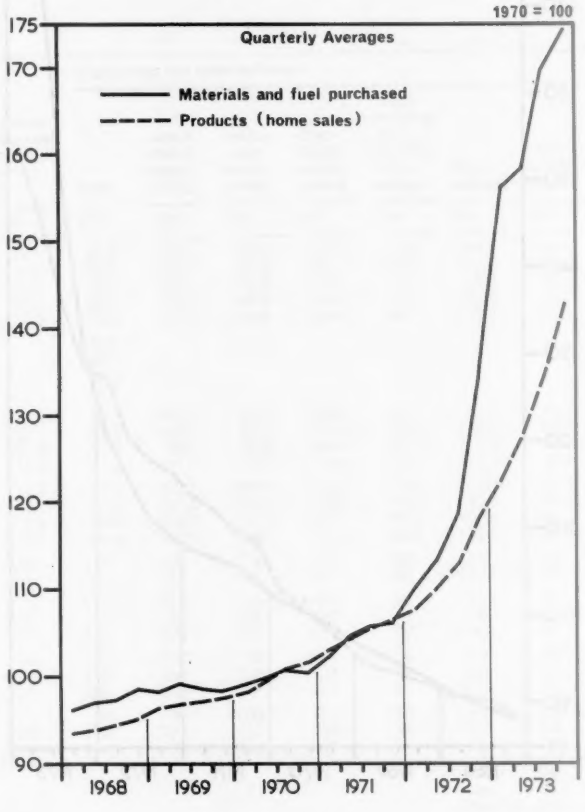


Chart 10
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES

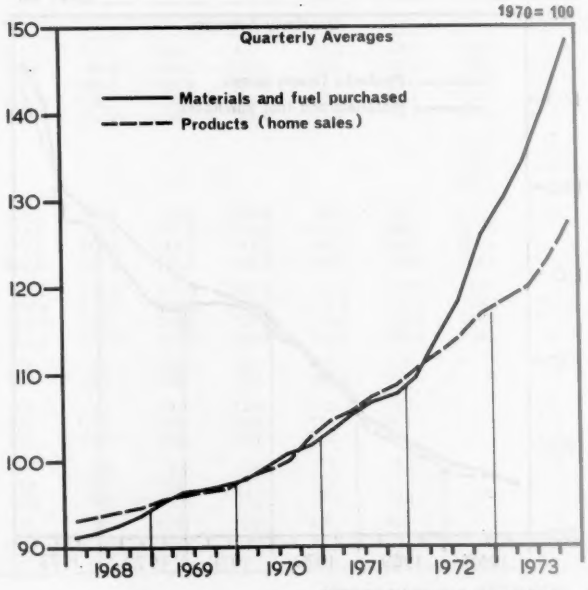


Chart 11
TIMBER INDUSTRIES

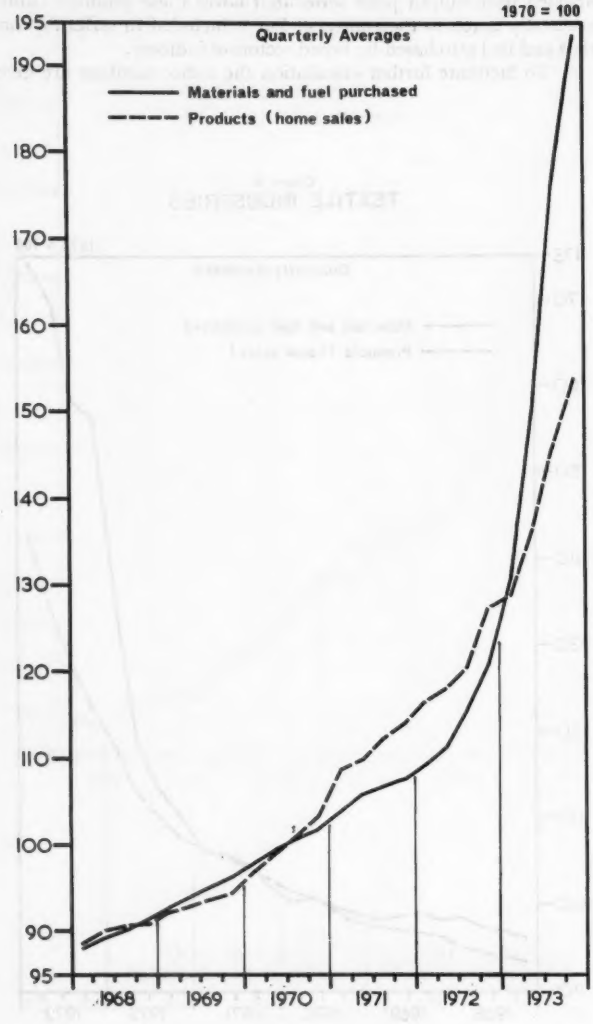
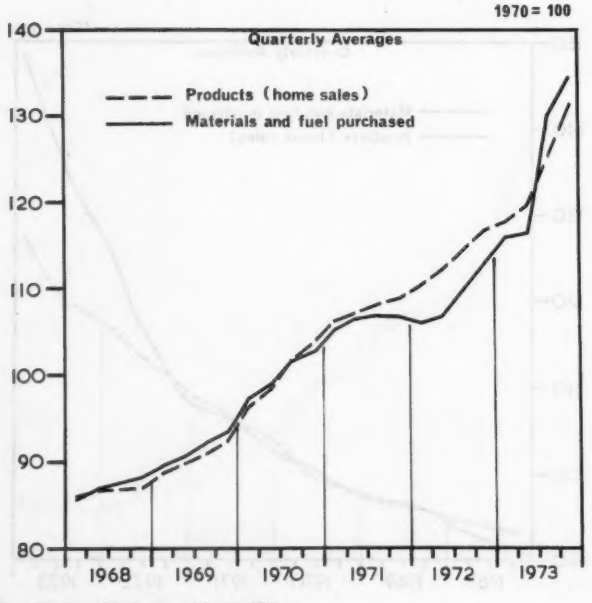


Chart 12
PAPER INDUSTRIES



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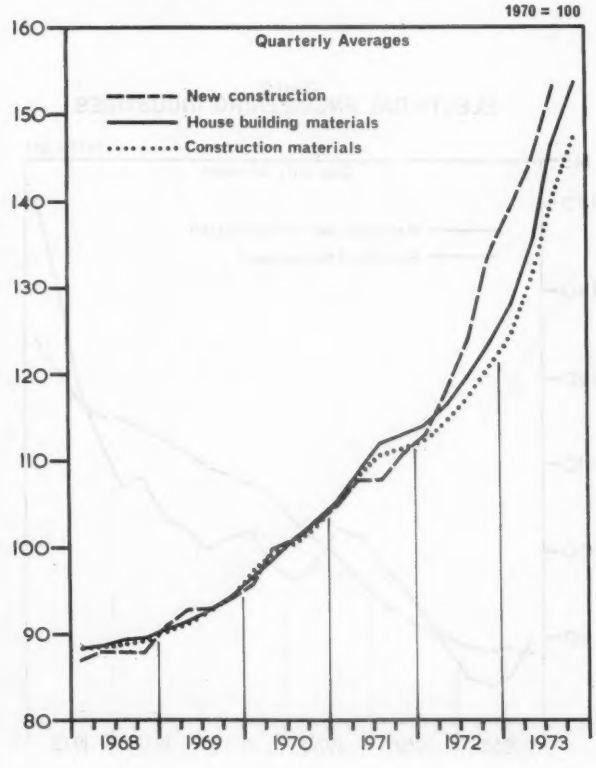
to one decimal place in most cases, but small month to month movements have little significance. Commodity index numbers are revised to take account of errors or very late notification of price changes, but unless these revisions are exceptionally important they are not carried through to the index numbers of purchases and output of sectors of industries in Tables 1 and 2.

13 Details of the constituent items and weights used in the construction of the index numbers in Tables 1 and 2 may be obtained on application.

14 The 1968-based series of wholesale price indices was introduced in *Trade and Industry*, 21 June 1973. Previously the wholesale price index was based on 1963 with the reference year also 1963. The 1963-based series was introduced in February 1969 and an article explaining the differences between the 1963 and 1954 based series appeared in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 21 February 1969. Other articles of particular relevance to the development of the wholesale price index appeared in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 21 March 1958 and 13 February 1959, and in *Economic Trends* of September 1958.

15 The commodity index numbers published in Table 3 represent only a selection of those available. Details of these additional indices are published in *Trade and Industry* at four-monthly intervals, and last appeared in the edition of 20 December 1973.

Chart 13
BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING



Index of industrial production in January

THE provisional estimate index of production for January 1974, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, is 99.7 (seasonally adjusted). For manufacturing industry alone the figure is 100.2.

For the three months November 1973 to January 1974, it is provisionally estimated that production as a whole was 4.9 per cent lower than the figures for the preceding three months, August 1973 to October 1973; for manufacturing industry alone there was a decrease of 4.6 per cent.

The average index numbers of the latest three months and the previous three months shown at the foot of the table give a general guide to the changes which have taken place in the output of the major groups in recent months.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
			Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
				Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods, n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1969	99.7	104.9	99.4	98.6	99.6	96.8	92.1	95.1	99.8	97.0	92.4	97.1	94.8	105.9	104.1
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	100.3	99.7	99.5	100.7	100.1	101.7	103.4	102.2	99.1	100.1	100.8	102.6	96.6	99.8	93.3
1972	102.1	84.0	101.6	104.9	104.0	106.3	102.6	108.2	98.7	92.7	95.1	110.1	91.8	101.6	94.2
1973	110.1	93.5	110.6	109.1	106.1	115.9	110.0	122.3	108.6	102.7	109.6	130.9	95.1	103.0	102.8
1971 1st qtr.	100.2	102.5	100.0	101.5					99.4						
2nd qtr.	100.9	102.9	100.3	101.7					100.7						
3rd qtr.	100.6	101.4	99.4	101.3					99.4						
4th qtr.	100.4	92.0	99.0	101.7					97.9						
1972 1st qtr.	89.0	45.6	98.3	104.8	102.6	108.4	97.4	104.1	96.6	95.3	93.7	108.0	90.4	94.8	89.1
2nd qtr.	102.7	95.7	101.2	104.7	103.5	106.6	100.8	108.1	98.3	93.5	93.8	108.2	93.0	100.4	94.2
3rd qtr.	102.5	95.0	101.8	105.5	105.0	105.7	106.6	107.4	98.6	90.4	96.8	109.4	91.5	101.5	96.7
4th qtr.	105.4	99.7	104.9	104.7	104.8	104.5	105.5	113.0	101.2	91.6	95.9	114.6	92.2	108.2	96.8
1973 1st qtr.	110.3	99.5	110.4	108.2	106.3	111.4	107.2	119.8	107.9	103.7	102.9	128.4	93.9	103.0	102.0
2nd qtr.	109.9	95.5	110.2	109.5	106.9	113.9	107.3	120.1	107.5	101.6	111.5	129.9	94.6	99.5	104.2
3rd qtr.	110.6	94.0	111.4	110.1	105.3	117.9	114.7	122.9	110.5	103.3	113.3	133.1	95.8	106.2	104.7
4th qtr.	109.3	85.0	110.4	108.4	105.9	112.4	111.0	126.3	108.6	102.3	110.7	132.2	96.0	103.5	100.3
1973 May	109.5	96	108.9	109	106	115	105	122	107	102	112	130	94	96	103
June	110.7	95	112.0	110	107	114	113	121	109	102	113	131	96	103	106
July	110.9	95	111.3	109	104	119	113	121	111	104	113	133	96	105	109
Aug	110.2	92	111.0	110	107	115	120	120	111	103	113	133	96	110	103
Sept	111.2	95	112.0	111	105	120	112	127	110	103	113	133	96	104	102
Oct.	111.2	94	111.9	110	107	116	115	129	110	103	113	134	95	108	100
Nov.	110.3	84	112.0	109	106	112	111	130	110	104	112	134	97	103	104
Dec.	106.5	76	107.4	106	105	109	107	120	106	100	107	129	96	100	97
1974 Jan.	99.7	70	100.2	112	104	125	100	132	96	94	100	121	88	81	93
Aug.-Oct. (av.)	110.9	94	111.6	110	106	117	116	125	110	103	113	133	96	107	102
Nov.-Jan. (av.)	105.5	77	106.5	109	105	115	106	127	104	99	106	128	94	95	98

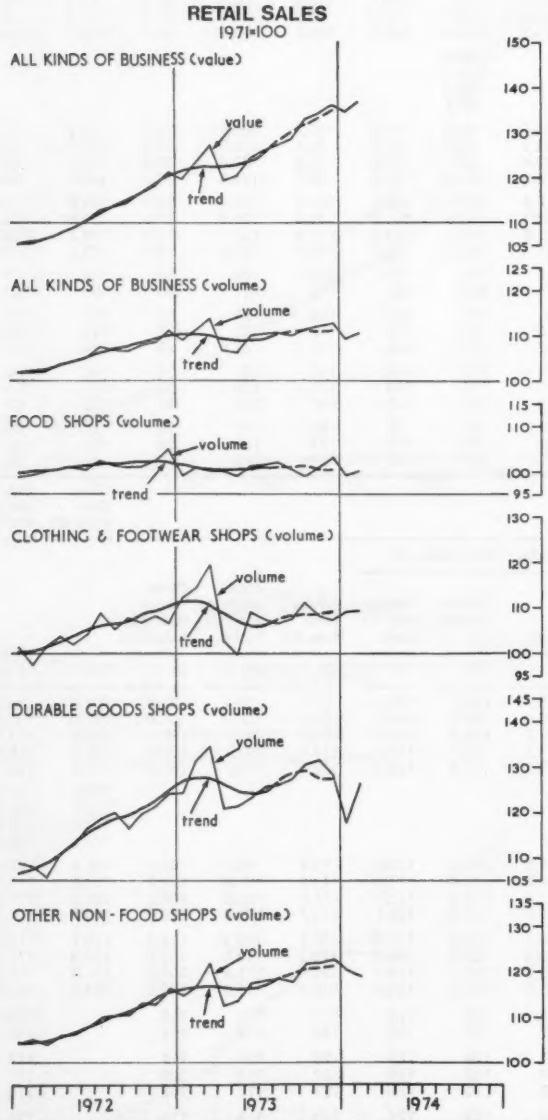
	Manufacturing industries (continued)													Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.							
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1969	100.3	100.4	100.0	100.4	100.2	103.0	100.4	103.7	102.7	105.2	99.7	99.3	99.5	102.0	96.2
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	89.4	86.8	97.7	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	107.7	106.4	109.8	103.0	97.3	100.6	102.9	103.9
1972	88.9	86.7	95.7	104.6	103.0	104.5	107.7	114.1	113.7	114.9	113.0	102.7	104.4	105.2	111.2
1973	95.5	92.1	106.0	109.8	108.6	101.3	113.7	125.1	124.9	125.4	128.4	113.7	109.7	107.5	118.1
1971 1st qtr.	94.8			102.5										100.9	99.2
2nd qtr.	92.0			102.5										102.1	102.5
3rd qtr.	89.3			102.2										103.3	105.8
4th qtr.	85.0			102.2										105.3	108.0
1972 1st qtr.	80.9	78.6	87.9	100.3	96.9	103.1	107.0	105.5	106.8	123.5	110.8	99.3	97.7	106.9	103.1
2nd qtr.	88.5	87.7	93.1	104.1	102.8	103.5	106.9	115.5	116.4	117.6	113.9	101.8	103.1	107.6	111.7
3rd qtr.	90.0	88.2	95.9	105.9	105.1	104.4	107.7	112.6	112.5	112.7	111.5	103.3	106.2	101.6	115.2
4th atr.	96.1	92.4	107.6	107.9	107.3	106.9	109.4	122.9	121.2	125.7	115.7	106.4	110.6	104.5	114.7
1973 1st qtr.	98.1	94.6	109.0	110.3	110.8	102.2	110.6	128.8	132.8	121.0	137.1	110.9	113.4	110.1	114.0
2nd qtr.	93.6	89.6	105.8	112.0	110.4	102.3	116.7	125.8	123.5	129.3	129.2	113.5	112.9	108.3	117.9
3rd qtr.	95.6	92.3	105.7	108.0	106.5	104.0	112.2	125.4	122.1	128.2	126.7	115.6	109.0	107.6	119.4
4th qtr.	94.9	92.0	103.7	109.0	106.6	99.8	115.2	122.0	121.3	123.0	120.6	115.0	109.9	104.2	121.3
1973 May	88	85	93	109	107	103	115	122	122	122	127	112	113		125
June	98	94	107	115	114	102	117	127	123	133	130	116	112		110
July	94	92	96	107	105	101	112	127	124	123	128	116	111		122
Aug.	93	90	99	108	106	101	112	124	122	126	123	114	109		117
Sept.	100	95	110	110	109	101	113	123	120	127	129	116	107		119
Oct.	94	93	91	110	107	102	118	124	124	124	124	115	113		128
Nov.	97	93	100	111	108	101	119	124	122	128	127	115	111		119
Dec.	94	90	99	106	105	97	109	118	118	117	110	115	106		118
1974 Jan.	79	76	90	90	87	90	96	105	105	123	103	101	102		110
Aug.-Oct. (av.)	96	93	100	109	107	101	114	124	122	126	125	115	110		121
Nov.-Jan. (av.)	90	86	96	102	100	96	108	116	115	123	113	110	106		116

Retail sales in February

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in February is 110.5 (1971 = 100), slightly lower than the provisional estimate, representing a recovery in trade of about 1 per cent from the low January level. The increase stemmed almost wholly from a recovery in sales by durable goods shops, following the sharp setback in January.

It seems that in addition to the general difficulties and other factors which have been affecting trade recently, the January figure may also reflect, in part, the effect of the closure of shops on New Year's Day, but it is not possible to isolate this factor. The recovery in sales by durable goods shops may reflect some picking up in trade by these shops after the marked initial impact in January of the introduction of restrictions on credit.

Taking January and February together, the average volume of sales was 1¼ per cent below the level in the second half of last year. On this comparison, sales by food shops were down by 2 per cent and sales by durable goods shops by 5 per cent. Sales by 'other non-food' shops (which include department stores and mail-order businesses) were little changed, but sales by clothing and footwear shops were up by 1 per cent.



The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973	110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1972 1st quarter	102.1	99.7	103.9	100	107	104
2nd quarter	104.6	101.0	107.1	104	114	107
3rd quarter	107.2	101.9	111.1	108	118	110
4th quarter	109.5	103.3	114.0	107	122	114
1973 1st quarter	111.8	100.5	120.0	116	131	118
2nd quarter	108.0	100.5	113.4	104	122	115
3rd quarter	110.5	101.6	117.0	108	127	118
4th quarter	112.3	101.4	120.4	109	130	122
1972 December*	111.2	105.2	115.5	107	124	116
1973 January	109.2	99.5	116.2	113	125	115
February	111.6	101.3	119.1	115	132	117
March*	114.0	100.6	123.8	120	135	122
April	106.9	100.4	111.6	103	121	112
May	106.5	99.4	111.6	100	122	113
June*	110.1	101.4	116.4	109	123	117
July	110.6	101.9	116.8	108	126	118
August	110.8	102.2	117.0	107	126	118
September*	110.2	100.8	117.0	108	128	118
October	111.7	99.3	120.7	111	131	121
November	112.3	101.1	120.5	109	132	122
December*	112.9	103.2	120.0	108	129	123
1974 January	109.5	99.3	116.9	109	118	120
February	110.5	100.1	118.0	109	126	119
1973 Sept.-Nov.	111.3	100 4	119.2	109	130	120
Dec.-Feb. 1974	111.1	101.0	118.4	109	125	121
Percentage increase	– 0.2	0.6	–0.7	—	–4	—

TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional Estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973	126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1972 1st quarter	106.0	104.7	106.9	105	109	107
2nd quarter	109.1	106.3	111.2	110	115	110
3rd quarter	113.9	110.1	116.6	116	121	115
4th quarter	118.9	114.6	122.1	119	128	122
1973 1st quarter	123.6	115.4	129.6	131	138	126
2nd quarter	121.7	119.6	123.2	121	128	123
3rd quarter	127.6	124.4	129.8	128	135	129
4th quarter	134.7	131.6	136.9	134	142	137
1972 December*	121.3	117.5	124.0	119	130	124
1973 January	119.8	112.6	125.0	126	131	123
February	123.1	115.8	128.3	129	138	125
March*	127.2	117.3	134.3	136	143	131
April	119.5	118.0	120.6	118	126	120
May	120.4	119.3	121.2	116	127	122
June*	124.5	121.1	127.0	128	130	126
July	126.1	122.3	128.8	127	134	128
August	127.4	124.3	129.7	127	135	129
September*	128.9	126.3	130.7	130	137	129
October	133.0	128.5	136.3	135	140	135
November	134.5	131.3	136.9	134	143	136
December*	136.2	134.4	137.5	134	142	138
1974 January	134.8	133.2	136.0	138	130	137
February	136.9	133.9	139.1	142	139	138
1973 Sept.-Nov.	131.9	128.5	134.3	133	140	133
Dec.-Feb. 1974	136.0	133.9	137.5	138	137	138
Percentage increase	3.1	4.2	2.4	4	–2	3

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked* which are of five weeks. The February 1974 sales period was the four weeks from 27 January 1974 to 23 February 1974. The corresponding period in 1973 was from 28 January 1973 to 24 February 1973.

(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses

Hire purchase and other instalment credit business in February 1974

New instalment credit extended by retailers and finance houses amounted to £188 million in February, (in seasonally adjusted terms). This was less than in January and well below the average level of advances in 1973. The reduction probably reflects a number of factors: reintroduction of hire purchase controls in December, which increased many deposits and reduced many repayment periods (thus automatically reducing the credit advanced on individual goods); the oil situation, electricity restrictions and effects of the three-day week, and possibly some shortages of goods. In the latest three months as a whole, compared with the preceding three months, finance houses experienced a 28 per cent fall and retailers a 5 per cent fall in new lending.

Retailers' total sales on instalment credit terms decreased by 4 per cent between these two three-monthly periods. Durable goods shops recorded a 22 per cent decrease and department stores a 12 per cent decrease, although February credit sales by both kinds of retail business were up on their January figures. Other instalment credit retailers (mainly mail order houses) reported a lower level of sales in February than January but in the three months December-February their sales were 7 per cent more than in the preceding three months.

The debt outstanding to retailers and finance houses decreased by £22 million in February (also in seasonally adjusted terms), bringing the overall decrease in the December-February period to £46 million compared with an increase of £97 million between September and November. At the end of February the total debt still outstanding amounted to £2,398 million (*not* seasonally adjusted), 13 per cent more than a year earlier.

To meet an urgent requirement for a mobile windfinding system to assist in air pollution studies being undertaken by Karlsruhe University's Meteorological Institute, Plessey Radar has adapted one of its standard WF3 windfinding radars to fit on to a Volkswagen double cab pick-up vehicle. Plessey Radar obtained the £48,000 order in West Germany's highly competitive market. The WF3 tracks balloon-borne meteorological targets, allowing windspeed and direction to be determined regularly and accurately to altitudes of 25km (80,000 ft). Plessey WF3 windfinding radar equipment has been sold in over 30 countries.

TABLE 1 Hire-Purchase and other instalment credit business seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total		Finance Houses†		Retailers‡	
	New credit extended	Increase in debt	New credit extended	Increase in debt	New credit extended	Increase in debt
1969	1,587	−20	701	−21	886	1
1970	1,735	84	822	58	913	26
1971	2,053	240	990	165	1,063	75
1972	2,497	424	1,222	296	1,275	128
1973	2,873	438	1,455	332	1,418	106
1972 1st quarter	575	87	273	57	302	30
2nd quarter	612	108	304	75	308	33
3rd quarter	640	123	309	75	331	48
4th quarter	670	106	336	89	334	17
1973 1st quarter	769	176	402	136	367	40
2nd quarter	668	80	330	54	338	26
3rd quarter	721	109	369	85	352	24
4th quarter	715	73	354	57	361	16
1973 July	235	34	117	25	118	9
August	253	41	134	33	119	8
September	233	34	118	27	115	7
October	249	34	123	22	126	12
November	246	29	126	25	120	4
December	220	10	105	10	115	—
1974 January	198	−34	82	−20	116	−14
February	188	−22	77	−17	111	−5
1973 Sept.-Nov.	728	97	367	74	361	23
Dec.-Feb. 1974	606	−46	264	−27	342	−19
Percentage increase	−17		−28		−5	
Debt outstanding at 31 December 1973 (unadjusted)	—	2,485	—	1,638	—	847

† Direct business only: ie excluding agreements block discounted with finance houses by retailers.

‡ Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'. For further definitions see footnote to Table 2.

TABLE 2 Retailers' instalment credit sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1966 = 100

	Total†	Durable goods shops	Department stores	Other instalment credit retailers‡
H.P. and other instalment credit sales in 1966 §				
£ million	(862)	(327)	(46)	(489)
1969	111	100	113	117
1970	121	112	119	128
1971	134	138	138	131
1972	158	162	157	155
1973	176	166	182	183
1972 1st quarter	149	151	152	148
2nd quarter	153	163	157	146
3rd quarter	164	167	164	162
4th quarter	165	166	155	166
1973 1st quarter	183	177	187	184
2nd quarter	168	159	175	174
3rd quarter	174	163	183	182
4th quarter	180	163	180	191
July	176	167	184	182
August	177	161	181	188
September*	171	161	184	177
October	188	168	196	210
November	181	168	188	189
December*	174	156	162	185
1974 January	174	111	164	217
February	167	113	173	202
1973 Sept.-Nov. av.	179	165	190	188
Dec.-Feb. 1974 av.	171	129	166	200
Percentage increase	−4	−22	−12	7

† Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'.

‡ General stores (other than department stores), general mail order houses and co-operative societies' non-durable goods departments.

§ Excluding sales against checks issued by other organisations.

The monthly periods for retailers consists of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The period covered by February 1974 sales was the four weeks from 27 January 1974 to 23 February 1974. The corresponding period in 1973 was from 28 January 1973 to 24 February 1973.

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Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 29 March 1974.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered No.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Swallows and Amazons	BR/E 37389/31/3/79	92	March 27	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Theatre Projects Film Productions Ltd.
Phantom Pilot	BR/E 37396/31/3/79	40	March 27	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Queensway Promotions Ltd. and Global Films Ltd.
Zardoz	BR/E 37397/31/3/79	106	March 27	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	John Boorman Productions Ltd., Dublin
Beach of the War Gods	BR/E 37400/31/3/79	81	March 28	Cathay Films Ltd.	Golden Harvest (HK) Ltd., Hong Kong
Movietone News 2338	BR/E 37231/31/3/79	8	March 29	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2338A	BR/E 37232/31/3/79	7	March 29	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Hit Man	EC 37395/31/3/79	96	March 27	Miracle Films Ltd.	Lira Films, Paris and Praesidens, Rome
			FOREIGN		
Company Limited	F 37390	112	March 27	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Chitranjali, Calcutta
Flyaway	F 37391	12	March 27	Contemporary Films Ltd.	R.A. Films, London
The Three Musketeers (The Queen's Diamonds)	F 37392	107	March 27	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Film Trust S.A., Middlesex
Hellfighters of the East	F 37393	92	March 27	Target International Pictures Ltd.	Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Serpico	F 37394	130	March 27	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Produzioni De Laurentiis Inter M.A. Co. S.p.A., Rome
Something Special	F 37398	14	March 28	Cathay Films Ltd.	Cathay Film Services Ltd.
Bridges of Silver and Gold	F 37399	33	March 28	Cathay Films Ltd.	Cathay Film Services Ltd.
Till Sex Us Do Part	F 37401	96	March 28	Eagle Films Ltd.	Sandrew Film & Teater AB, Stockholm

Correction to the Register:
The name of the maker of the film 'The Year of Sir Ivor' (BR/E 34066) registered on 8 April 1969, has been corrected to Dahlia Investments Ltd.

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Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	18 Oct. 1973
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	11 Oct. 1973
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	29 Nov. 1973
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 Mar. 1974
Capital expenditure:	
distributive and service trades (A)	28 Apr. 1971
manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	This week
Catering trades turnover (M)	14 Mar. 1974
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Aug. 1973
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	28 Feb. 1974
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	14 Mar. 1974
N. Ireland (M)	21 Mar. 1974
Computers: UK market (Q)	24 May 1973
Construction work overseas (A)	11 Oct. 1973
Electronic capital equipment (Q)	21 June 1973
Energy trends (M)	28 Mar. 1974
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	21 Mar. 1974
Film industry:	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	21 Mar. 1974
cinema admissions and takings (M)	28 Mar. 1974
overseas payments and earnings (A)	9 Aug. 1973
registration of films (A)	31 Jan. 1974
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	30 Aug. 1973
household consumption (Q)	17 Jan. 1974
Footwear industry:	
production, orders and deliveries (M)	28 Mar. 1974
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	7 Mar. 1974
Foreign trade:	
industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
world exports of manufactures (A)	30 Sept. 1970
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	14 Mar. 1974
Hire-purchase business (M)	This week
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
N. Ireland index (M)	28 Mar. 1974
Wales index (Q)	7 Feb. 1974
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	10 Jan. 1974
investment and earnings overseas (A)	29 Mar. 1973
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	28 Feb. 1974
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
production (M)	7 Mar. 1974
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	28 Mar. 1974
estimated figures (M)	14 Mar. 1974
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 Feb. 1974
Office development permits (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	10 May 1973
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	28 Feb. 1974
value: analysis of trends (Q)	6 Dec. 1973
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Retail prices index (M)	This week
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	This week
provisional figures	14 Mar. 1974
sales, N. Ireland (M)	28 Mar. 1974
stocks (M)	14 Mar. 1974
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	12 Apr. 1973
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	6 Dec. 1973
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	21 Mar. 1974
Stocks:	
distributive and service trades (A)	28 Apr. 1971
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	This week
retail (M)	14 Mar. 1974
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	9 Aug. 1973
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	13 Dec. 1973
carpet sales (M)	28 Mar. 1974
cotton industry production (M)	28 Mar. 1974
hosiery production (M)	21 Mar. 1974
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	This week
orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	28 Mar. 1974
wool exports (Q)	14 June 1973
wool output (M)	28 Mar. 1974
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	14 Mar. 1974
overseas travel and tourism (A)	21 Feb. 1974
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	This week
index numbers (M)	14 Mar. 1974

Departmental etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representation overseas	This week
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	21 Mar. 1974
ECGD local offices	14 Mar. 1974
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Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

10 April 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

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Auctioneers: Fenn Wright & Co. (Dept. L), 146 High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1PW (Tel: 0206 46161)

The lots on offer include carpets, blankets, service clothing, web equipment, tent components, electrical and MT spares, miscellaneous tools and plant, furniture and kitchen equipment, Vertical-Milling-Shearing machines. Conveyancer forklifts, Lansing Bagnall industrial tractor, Blaw Knox concrete mixer, Pegson earth rammers, Bedford recovery vehicle and a Thames 3 ton van. Scrap batteries, tyres, cable and ferrous metals, etc.

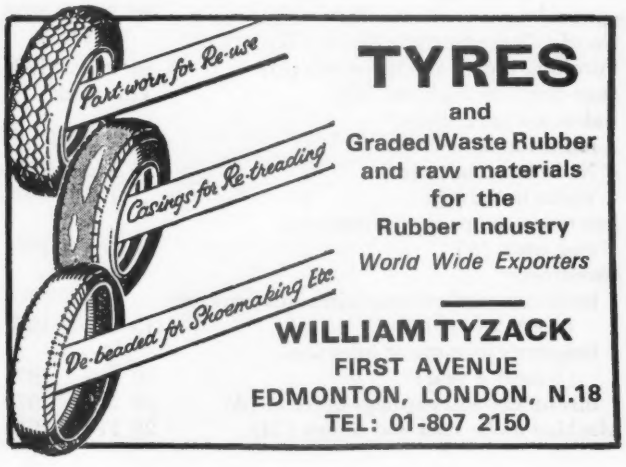
17 April 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Regional Depot RAOC, Hereford

Auctioneers: Russell Baldwin & Bright (Dept. L), 20-21 King Street, Hereford HR4 9DB (Tel: 0432 55441)

15 forklift trucks, Landrover, Bedford truck, 6 compressors, lathes and other machine tools, lubricating plants, tyres, vehicle radiators and springs, batteries, battery chargers, hydraulic and other jacks, pallets, drills, oscilloscopes, theodolites and levels, avometers, Binoculars, telescopes, Rolleiflex and other cameras, watches, steel and other wardrobes, office-dropleaf-side and other tables, chairs and other household and kitchen furniture, carpets, chamber pots, 4,000 white and coloured blankets, linen sheets, battledress and other service clothing, nylon risers and cord, aircraft-MT-wireless and electrical spares, and a large collection of other miscellaneous stores.

Catalogues of the above sales, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the relevant auctioneers from two weeks prior to and up to the date of the sale, price 10p (postal order only).



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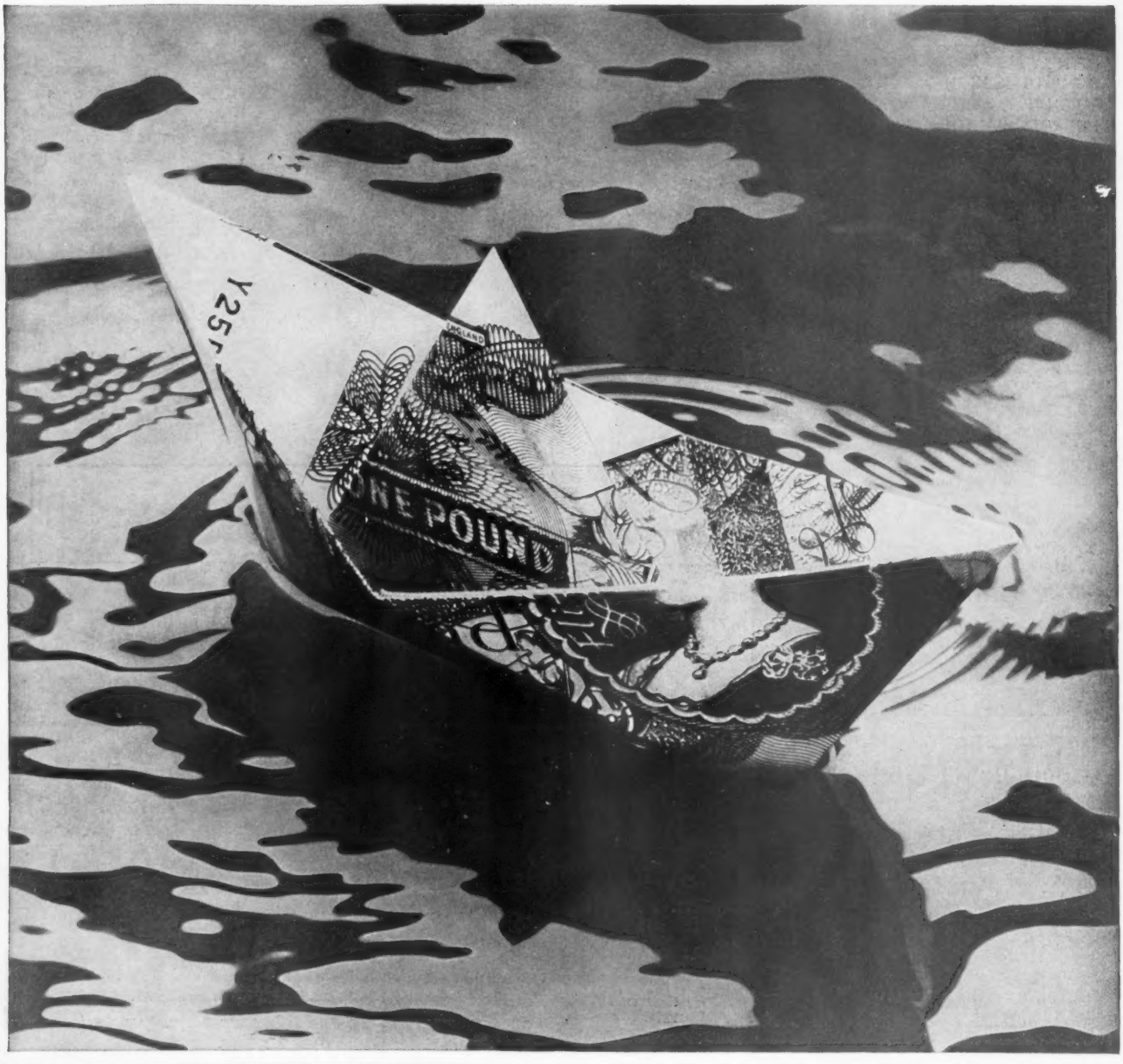

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